

One year limit on control of profits and dividends

A one-year limit on some of its powers to control company profit margins and dividends was accepted by the Government yesterday. Whitehall was stressing that the concession by Mr Hattersley was only a minor one. Nevertheless, shares moved upwards immediately to give their best performance since mid-December.

Hattersley concession gives boost to shares

By Ronald Emmer
Business News Staff

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, yesterday accepted an amendment to the Price Commission Bill which limits the powers to control company profit margins and dividend payments to one year from August 1.

The move came in the final day of the committee stage of the Bill and followed Labour's plans to present an amendment designed to bring his powers to enforce price policy to an end on the same date.

When the news was first announced the stock market reacted sharply and by the end of the day the FT Index was 15.7 points to 472.7, its best performance since mid-December. Sterling came under pressure during the day and reacted little reaction in the Confederation of British Industry was unmoved by the move. It pointed out that the shorts to control prices had been intertwined and that Hattersley was committed to that as soon as restraint was lifted. Nobody

Elected a phase four to start summer 1978, it said.

Clause 17 of the Bill sought to change the remuneration charges and Grants Act of 1975 so Dr O'Gough McDonald, colour MP for Thurrock, said by it stood annual renewal of Order in Council could mean there was a mechanism for forcing pay restraints until August 1978. One of the key to act of pay policy on living standards, that prices had risen sharply thus affecting the attempt to secure a Phase 11 pay policy, she thought unlikely to allow the controls last beyond next year.

The Opposition supported the motion because it also had the effect of allowing dividend limits and margins controls for one further year. Indeed Sally Oppenheim, Opposition spokesman on prices, said at the Labour opposition of the amendment did not realize the time the effect their votes would have on companies' price policy in general.

Opposition was now considering introducing an amendment to the Bill during the third Reading which would give the investigatory powers of the new Price Commission to one year, an amendment which would probably be supported by the Liberals.

In accepting the amendment yesterday, Mr Hattersley said that the sanctions it affected were very limited and could not be applied to prices and dividends if there were no pay policy.

He accepted that, in those circumstances should it prove

necessary, and desirable for them to take such powers again, a more than reasonable case was made for requiring the Government to present a new Bill.

There would be a year in which all the counter-inflationary powers would apply. After the summer of next year, the only power which would remain, if the amendment were carried, would be the investigatory power - a short-term weapon in the anti-inflation policy and a long-term weapon in anti-monopoly policy.

Mr Hattersley said that to concentrate all the inflation or counter-inflation powers for a year, leaving the one special power to remain permanently, was wholly consistent with what he had tried to do. In the light of that and in the knowledge of the strong feelings of some Labour MPs about the pay sanctions after 1978, he was prepared to accept the amendment.

Effectively, the Price Commission Bill is in two parts. One relates to the investigatory powers of the Price Commission which could lead to price freezes of up to a year. No concessions have been made in this area, one which Mr Hattersley sees as the crux of his price policy, and the power will be permanent once the Bill is passed.

The second part, however, sought to retain margin and dividend controls for a year, renewable for two further annual periods by Order in Council. The effect of yesterday's concession is that these powers will now expire on July 31 next year.

Government officials were at pains to point out yesterday that the concession was minor.

Originally Mr Hattersley planned to abolish margin controls this summer but it was only after concerted TUC pressure in the consultative stages before the White Paper was presented that they were included in the plans. Now, after second thoughts at Congress House, the pay policing powers will only last for a further year.

The Secretary of State has said that prices policy will only be enforceable so long as a pay policy sticks.

It was being speculated last night that it is "vague". These three based on guidelines rather than a fixed ceiling were introduced it would be open to anyone to challenge in open court the Secretary of State's decision as to whether any settlement rendered the position acceptable.

Yesterday, Mr Stewart Steven, associate editor of the Daily Mail, said he had offered to resign over the newspaper's report of a Leyland "slush fund". His name appeared above the first two from page reports

Draft consultative document on education indicates end of tradition going back 80 years Government plans to set minimum standards in schools

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

After the "great debate" on education, initiated by the Prime Minister, the Government has decided it should intervene to set minimum educational standards for schools in England and Wales. Its decision will end a tradition that has lasted more than a century: that teachers should be left to decide what is taught in schools.

A draft of the forthcoming Green Paper on education states that the Secretary of State for

Education and Science and the Secretary of State for Wales will invite local education authorities and teachers' associations to take part in consultations about a review of curricular arrangements in each local authority area.

After that the Secretaries of State will issue an instruction to education authorities to make the review, and to report the results within about twelve months.

The departments will analyse the reports and hold consultations on them and on the

nature of any guidance which the Secretaries of State might issue on curricular matters.

The Government seeks to establish broad agreement on a framework for the curriculum, and particularly on whether part of the curriculum should be common to all schools and to all pupils at certain ages.

Under the Education Act 1944, the Secretaries of State have ultimate responsibility for the education of the people of England and Wales. It would be superseded by a revised draft which was drawn up over the weekend. More revisions are

likely to follow before the final document is ready for publication in July.

But the penultimate draft document, which runs to more than 20,000 words, already makes clear the Government's thinking on several key issues regarding the quality of education and the standards of learning attained by the nine million children in primary and secondary schools in England and Wales.

Summary, page 4



The new Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. (Left to right): Lord Franks, Lord Shackleton (chairman) and Lord Carr of Hadley.

Honours to be strictly scrutinized

By Peter Hennessy

The system for scrutinizing the award of political honours is to be tightened after Whitehall's failure last year to dismisse Sir Harold Wilson from recommending about half the nominees to receive honours in return for financial contributions to party funds.

The terms of reference of the scrutiny committee, established in 1972 after the scandal of the Lord's peerages, are to ensure that names submitted for political honours are those of "fit and proper persons" to be recommended.

The committee will also ask Mr Cocks, Government Chief Whip, to take special care in vetting political nominees before signing certificates that state that they are not receiving honours in return for financial contributions to party funds.

The committee will also ask the outgoing Prime Minister, Sir Harold, to advise him on the Civil Service

Department, the Cabinet Office and the secretariat at 10 Downing Street.

The feeling in Whitehall is that only the use by the scrutiny committee of its extreme power, to which it has never resorted since the war, could have dissuaded Sir Harold, who would have been reluctant to see his recommendations accompanied by a note of disapproval from the Queen. Everything else was tried and failed.

Lord Shackleton, Lord

Franks and Lord Carr will be so relieved if presented in future with unsuitable names.

Like the Civil Service, who determined that the honours system should be rescued from the wreckage into which it was plunged by Sir Harold's resignation list.

It is understood that Lord Shackleton and his colleagues, Lord Franks and Lord Carr of Hadley, will ask the Prime Minister to give them earlier notice of his intention to confer political honours. In the past, Lord Franks has been known to tress about half the nominees for life peerages and knight-

hoods as they seemed scarcely to enter the political category at all, their only connexion with the outgoing Prime Minister being one of personal friendship.

To the regret of many in Whitehall, they shrunk from pressing their opposition to the point of registering a formal objection with the Prime Minister. Instead, informal representations were made in the most discreet way.

Many people avoided the disruption by taking the day off. Those that did try to go to work found their noses bussed and trains running late. Litter was delivered to garages piled up in the street.

Electricity production was cut by two thirds, and traffic at airports and harbours reduced to a trickle. Schools and universities were closed.

Many factories were shut for the day, as were the supermarkets. Some most shops, including the big departmental stores, were open. No newspapers were published, nor even Le Parisien Libere, which normally appears about the same time.

Flight services were not affected.

Flights from Heathrow to

France were also disrupted.

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Court refuses bail for Leyland man

By Stewart Tander

Mr Steven submitted his resignation to Mr Vere-Hammon, chairman of Associated Newspapers, with that of Mr David English, the newspaper's editor. On Monday Mr Hammon said he had declined to accept Mr English's resignation.

Yesterday Mr Steven said: "The chairman is out of the country and obviously he wants a full investigation. I have made available to him a great many documents. Until he sees them it would be unfair to expect him to make a decision in regard to my resignation."

Mr Steven, aged 32, was charged on Monday night with forging a letter with intent to defraud in March this year purporting to have been signed by Lord Ryder of Eaton Hastings last October.

The couple appeared before Mr Michael Barakatou, the City Metropolitan Magistrate, who refused bail.

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backs because of irresponsible comments by some sections of the British press."

Mr Cryer said immeasurable harm could be done by allegations like those in the Daily Mail.

Today Professor Oliver McGregor, chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press, is to see the Prime Minister, to see if he has expressed concern over the issue raised by newspaper handling of the Leyland report.

"Mr Cryer's reply: After Commons

attack on the Daily Mail reported by the Prime Minister,

Mr Vere-Hammon's chairman of the paper's proprietors, Associated Newspapers, said:

"I am sorry Mr Cryer's allegation of vandalism despite my understanding of his feelings as to this deplorable but honest mistake has followed us closely upon the further occasioned by the appointment of Mr Peter Jay."

Callaghan criticism, page 17

Leading article, page 17

Labour tries to bury banking plan

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour policy-makers are quietly attempting to bury the party's commitment to the public ownership of banks and insurance companies—an election alibi—in the High Street without creating a big storm at the ballot box.

Mr Callaghan has already asked the Treasury to examine the possibility of merging the National Giro with the national savings bank, and its conclusions are expected soon. Not only would the proposal give a state banking institution an outlet in the High Street but it would ameliorate any challenge from the left wing that the party has gone back on its commitments.

The party, in fact, has run into difficulties with the unions over the policy to nationalise the four main clearing banks and seven insurance companies, which was approved by the annual conference last year.

A national executive committee working party, set up to consult the unions directly involved, has already been told either directly or through committee papers, that the unions are opposed to the proposal.

The unions involved are: Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs, National Union of Bank Employees, Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, and the National Union of Insurance Workers.

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Police vote for right to strike

By Michael Hatfield

Delegates to the Police Federation conference at Scarborough voted by an overwhelming majority to demand the right to strike. Mr James Jardine, the federation's chairman said: "I want to say to the Government that if we do not get what we want then look out. We are the most powerful people industrially in the country. We have only to flex one muscle to bring this country to a standstill."

Jobless down in May

There was slight relief for the Government when the unemployment figures showed a 7,200 drop in the seasonally adjusted level to 1,262,000 during May. The unadjusted figure fell even more sharply—by more than 50,000—the largest in any month for four years. However, with an expanding labour force, 12,000 new jobs are needed every month.

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Continued on page 2, col 3

Likud line softer on the occupied lands

The right-wing Likud Party is reported to have accepted UN Resolution 242 on the occupied territories as part of its understanding with the Democratic Movement for Change, whose support it needs to form a coalition government in Israel.

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HOME NEWS

'Look out' warning to Government as police delegates vote to demand the right to strike

From Clive Borrell

Scarborough

Delegates to the Police Conference at Scarborough last night voted by an overwhelming majority to demand the right to strike. Such action is prohibited by law and will require sanction by Act of Parliament.

Mr James Jardine, the chairman of the federation, which has 104,000 members, said: "It would be quite appropriate to go on television tonight to call our members out on strike if the law allowed and the need required. We are members of the EEC and we want to move forward with the rest of the workers in this country."

"I want to say to the Government that if we do not get what we want then look out. We are the most powerful people industrially in the country. We have only to find one muscle to bring this country to a standstill tomorrow. We want change because of the way we have been treated over our pay and conditions."

Last week Mr Rees, Home Secretary, who will address the conference today, imposed a £4-

a-week settlement on the police after nearly a year of negotiations. The police maintain they should be treated as a "special case" and be granted £6 a week.

Mr Jardine told the conference that the Government seemed to treat them as special except when it came to pay. Today the conference will decide whether they should withdraw from the TUC. The mood of the thousand delegates yesterday was such as to indicate clearly that that motion will be passed unanimously.

Many speakers in long and sometimes acrimonious speeches condemned the Government of "deceit and hypocrisy". Moving the resolution for the right to strike, Det. Sergeant Richard House, of Leicestershire, said: "The thought of policemen going on strike appals me but we will appear and even more insist this irresponsible government has treated our negotiators."

He said Mr Rees had imposed the settlement because "he knows there is damn all we can do about it. Anyone else would have been amne-

tized our on strike but we cannot and he knows he can do as he likes with us."

Whitehead decided to take up on. Having imposed the stage two settlement on us, they think we will now back down and do as we are told like naughty boys who have stepped out of line. I say to you they have taken on the wrong people."

They have got us to the wall and our backs are to the wall. No longer will we put up with being third-class citizens in their society."

Against the motion and one of the few voices from the body of the hall, Sergeant Ian Boss, of Thames Valley police, said: "I do not want to be like a lot of lemmings and march over the Scarborough cuts and be told to strike. Do not be led by the rabble and be talked into something to do with us."

Mr Jardine was given a standing ovation when he told the delegates: "We have just started fighting now and I shall tell the Home Secretary as tomorrow. We want change because of the way we have been treated over our pay and conditions."

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Compromise formula on worker-directors

By Our Political Reporter

A compromise formula on industrial democracy, aimed at reconciling differences between the Government, the trade unions and management, was produced yesterday by the centre-right Manifesto Group of Labour backbenchers.

The document argues the case for two phases. In the first, lasting three years, there would be enabling legislation that would extend company directors' obligations to include the interests of employees and would legalize the appointment of employee directors with the same rights and duties as directors.

The phased introduction would allow time for management and trade unions to agree on voluntary participation agreements, which could include extensions of collective bargaining and employee representation at boardroom level.

The agreements, the document says, should be registered with a new industrial democracy commission, which could also be available to give advice to both sides of industry on the introduction of participation schemes. That could include the development of lower-level arrangements where appropriate, and the establishment of training and communication systems.

The group states that in the interim period they would extend the nationalised industries to a lead.

The second phase would come into force three years after the industrial democracy

legislation became law. Then a work force in those companies employing 2,000 and over which voted to do so would be entitled as of right to boardroom representation.

The Secretary of State would have power to introduce an order extending employee representation rights to smaller firms.

They propose a model for representation at boardroom level. There would be a "trade union trigger mechanism", which could be operated only by a union representing 30 per cent of all employees.

Proposed by following on of all employees. The document states that to be successful, the affirmative majority would have to be equal to at least a third of all employees.

Employee representatives at boardroom level should be elected by a vote of all employees, and all should be eligible to stand.

The document suggested "policy" boards, on which there would be employee representation and which would have overall control and responsibility, and appointment boards.

There should be an equal number of directly elected employees and shareholder representatives on the policy boards, although it might be possible to agree a phased build-up towards parity, they state. While shareholder and employee representatives agree, there could also be a smaller number of outsiders. However, the chairman would normally be elected from inside the company.

Drivers fined £1 a milligram of excess alcohol

From Our Correspondent

Chichester

Magistrates at Chichester have introduced a system of fixing motorists on drink and driving offences according to the amount they have consumed. The new system of £1 for every milligram of alcohol in 100 millilitres of a motorist's blood.

Mr Stanley Roth, chairman of the bench, said yesterday: "We are concerned about the persistence with which drink and driving offences are coming before the court. This is not a tariff but a guideline. We have to have a starting point for consideration of a penalty."

The Automobile Association said yesterday: "Our legal advisers say there is nothing to stop these magistrates setting fines on this basis provided they do not exceed the present maximum of £400."

On Monday Chichester magistrates imposed a fine of £136 on a motorist who had 136 milligram of alcohol in his blood. Last week another motorist was fined £285.

Minister urged to allow Ugandan to stay

From Our Correspondent

Birmingham

The Home Secretary is to be urged to allow a young Ugandan who fears execution if he returns to his country to stay in Britain.

Stephen Paul Senna, aged 22, admitted in a Birmingham court yesterday that he had stayed in this country longer than the permitted time. He was sentenced to one day's detention, recommended for deportation and ordered to remain in custody pending the Home Secretary's decision.

Mr Senna, of City Road, Edgbaston, said in a statement that he wanted to stay to get a better education. He said: "I could not go back because I was frightened of returning."

Mr Malcolm Fisher, for the defence, said representations were being made to the Home Secretary to allow Mr Senna to stay. "It is a very serious situation in his country and he comes here virtually as a political refugee. If he goes back he does not know what fate awaits him."

Unions oppose bank nationalization

Continued from page 1

A Transport House research paper to one of the party's subcommittees states: "The analysis on which the proposals are based is disputed by five unions. They contest the assertion that there is significant evidence of any failure by the financial institutions to make funds available for industrial investment, and point to the availability of funds from Finance for Industry and the banks. In their view the real problem has been the lack of demand for funds by industry due at least in part to the general level of interest rates being too high to justify investment projects."

Not only is the policy being fought by some unions but it is also being contested within the party's policy-making process.

In Labour policy-making those

seemingly petty quibbles are never overlooked, because they may have a direct bearing on the final outcome. In this instance, the finance and economic subcommittees have been told to postpone any further discussion on banking and insurance until a viable basis for policy."

Their report has caused a clash with the more senior Home Policy Committee, which Mr Ian McIlroy, a leading left-winger who has led the campaign for the public ownership of banks and insurance, demands what right the subcommittee had to discuss the subject.

Mrs Castle has challenged the mixtures of the finance and economic subcommittees, saying there was a discussion on the subject which was not reached.

National executive committee members are committed to report back to the annual conference on the subject of discussions with the unions, and the whole question of public ownership of banks is bound to come under closer scrutiny.

Mrs Whitehouse scents victory

Continued from page 1

"I feel," Mrs Whitehouse said, "as if we were right back to square one."

Not that the BBC and sex are the only transgressors. Of Mrs Whitehouse's moral code: "The IBA is just as bad, and violence, between men, is far more damaging at the moral lack of moral guidance given by church leaders. But the BBC and sex makes a better story."

Newspapers, she thinks, have on the whole been more responsible, with some exceptions.

"Page three of *The Sun* is merely indecent; for real pornography we have to turn to the arts pages of *The Guardian*."

Now the Whitehouse heavy artillery is trained on the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Last week she sent him a novel which she declined to name, but which had an entire chapter dedicated to discrediting Jews in wartime Poland.

She drew great satisfaction from the Aman report, but was deeply distressed by a speech given in Bath last week by Sir Michael Swann, the present chairman of the BBC, in which he spoke of "abhorrent critics of sex and violence on television".

"I have no proof, but I cannot help feeling that there are forces at work in the DPP's office and in Whitehouse that are determined to do away with the miseries of the obscenity laws. At least Denmark abolished in

several obscenity laws by democratic debate."

I thought that the only things left obscene in the law's eyes were sadomasochism and bestiality. Now I think there is nothing left at all."

"I know of nothing more pornographic than bestiality. Do you?"

But she did. "Unless we are on our guard, there is nothing to stop the intending import of 'kiddie porn' from the United States, in which children of three are used in sexual poses."

So is there a plot behind it? "The pornographers are in it for the money. But there is no question that morality, which has to do with morale, is now part of the ideological battle for the hearts and minds of people." Her book makes much of Nazi pornography aimed at discrediting Jews in wartime Poland.

Mrs Whitehouse has produced a book that will delight the prurient, being liberally padded with lurid quotations from books and court cases on the whole gamut of sexual adventure. "I trust," the author said, "the wrong sort of people will not buy it."

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Journalists arrange altered lobby system

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Future meetings between Parliamentary lobby journalists and ministers, MPs and civil servants are to be arranged so that agreed exchanges can be conducted "on the record".

That decision, taken at a meeting of the lobby journalists and ministers, MPs and civil servants, follows recent reports from allegations that Downing Street spokesman had, in an off-the-record briefing of the lobby, suggested that Sir Peter Ramsbotham, British Ambassador in Washington, was "an old-fuddy-duddy" and "an old-fashioned snob", out of tune with the new Carter Administration.

Afterwards, Mr Tom McCaffrey, the Prime Minister's press secretary, said: "I wish to make clear that I did not make any personal observations about Sir Peter Ramsbotham in the press briefing about the new ambassador".

Some Labour backbenchers viewed the decision as a serious political blunder by Mr Callaghan, and when the newspapers reported that Sir Peter was trying to create an unfavourable impression of the ambassador to ward off Labour criticism.

Mr English has made plenty of enemies, and some of them are not likely to be pleased. But even opponents who resent the way he has treated them admit that he is a brilliant and highly effective worker who can do virtually any job as well as or better than his staff.

"A toweringly brilliant journalist, one of the few editors prepared to stick his head above the parapet," was one comment yesterday from a former *Daily Mail* executive.

Another commented: "He has great flair, and an acute sense of where the *Daily Mail's* strengths lie: middle class, middle brow, heavily oriented towards women, etc. Southwark Office admired his ability to catch a potentially flabby first edition at 5.30 pm and convert it rapidly into something taut and interesting."

The system has been accepted for years as a method of passing information to newspapers on a non-attributable basis. It became formalized in 1926 when ministers were annoyed about the way they were interrogated in Downing Street by correspondents after Cabinet meetings.

Private briefings for accredited lobby correspondents were arranged at 12 Downing Street and regular meetings involving fewer than a dozen reporters, mainly from Fleet Street, took place afterwards.

Yesterday lobby journalists passed by 42 votes to 11 a resolution from Mr David Holmes, Political Editor of the BBC, confirming journalists' belief that processes of the House and Government should be conducted and discussed increasingly in the open.

It continued: "They therefore propose that future meetings between the lobby and ministers, MPs and civil servants should allow for exchanges to be conducted for quotation on the record" and the sources and the lobby agree."

However, it agreed that much interchange between political journalists and politicians is better conducted through the convention of 'non-attribution'.

The decision is bound to raise questions about access to the on-the-record" discussions with ministers or officials.

Part of the meetings might be "on the record" and part between informants and the lobby committee.

Under the settlement Britain will receive half the estate.

Callaghan attack on 'spiteful' bribery reports

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

As pressure mounted

at Westminster last night for a full debate on all aspects of the *Daily Mail's* "bribery fund" allegations against Lord Rydes of East Hastings, and British Leyland, Mr Callaghan came before the Commons yesterday to denounce the newspaper and its editor, Mr David English.

The Prime Minister spoke of

contemptible display of politi-

cally spineless journalism

and "irretrievably stained".

That sort of thing was contemptible.

The exchanges in the House

began when Mr Jim Wrigh-

ton, Labour MP for Pen-

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The exchanges in the House

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Photograph: Gus Wyllie

Competition is stiff, too.

These big fellows were caught by trawlers steaming out of Hull, then frozen stiff while the boats were still at sea. They come into the sheds at Hull frozen into blocks so cold it isn't wise to touch them with bare hands.

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our lubricants. We still are. Today, we are a major supplier of lubricants to the trawlers. The fishermen and Mobil are important enough to each other for us to keep a marine lubricants specialist posted in Hull, especially to handle some of the fleets' lubrication problems. We keep our customers happy as long as we offer truly valuable services to them; we let others compete on the basis of price alone.

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HOME NEWS

Tenants' charter will allow councils to license landlords

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A proposed "tenants' charter", for both the public and private sectors, would be a cornerstone of the Government's forthcoming housing policy review, Mr Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, said yesterday.

In the first official preview of the contents of the long-delayed Green Paper Mr Freeson said the Government intended to give local authorities powers to license private landlords. Tenants would be given the first right to buy their homes on a cooperative basis when the owner proposed to sell the property "over their heads".

The proposals enumerated by Mr Freeson reflect his enthusiasm for the expansion of joint-ownership and cooperatives. He ruled out of equity-sharing schemes between tenants and both private landlords and housing associations, and of encouraging small landlords to form their own cooperatives.

Tenants in both the private and public sectors would have a statutory right to form cooperatives and to make improvements to their homes, with the possibility of being able to recover part of their investments if they later moved. They would also be entitled to buy their houses in designated "housing action areas" and general improvement areas.

Mr Freeson was outlining his view of the future at a press conference to mark the publication of a report by the Housing Services Advisory Group on local authority tenancy agreements. The report calls for a "fundamental change" in the relationship between public-sector landlords and their tenants.

Many agreements are unnecessarily restrictive, in that they relate to duties and responsibilities already adequately covered by law or imply a code of conduct that is entirely foreign to the great majority of tenants, the report says. They do not express clearly, if at all, the obligations of the landlord.

Customers sought for ride soon into Earth's orbit

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

For a down payment of \$500 (about £280), universities or other similar centres of learning throughout the world will be able to book in the near future a ride into orbit on the United States space shuttle for their scientific experiments.

At the Paris Air Show, which begins at the end of next week, the United States National Aviation and Space Administration (Nasa) and Rockwell International, maker of the shuttle orbiter vehicle, which is due to go into space for the first time in two years, will be canvassing customers.

One American university has placed a deposit on an experimental trip into space for some of its scientific equipment. The eventual cost will be about \$10,000.

Nasa is circularizing universities and other scientific institutions offering space in the shuttle's 60ft by 15ft cargo bay.



and are couched in frequently incomprehensible legal phraseology.

It is the group's "unanimous view" that council tenants should enjoy the same measure of security as private tenants, and it welcomes the Government's commitment to legislate to that effect.

The report also observes that the issue of notices in quit, whenever a council wishes to change the conditions of tenancies, frequently causes distress and should be avoided when there is no intention to do so.

Tenancy conditions adopted by individual local authorities should be revised periodically in consultation with tenants, it says. "Detailed conditions designed to regulate the conduct of a small minority of tenants should be avoided; a general clause in the agreement specifying tenants' behaviour sensibly is all that is necessary,"

Mr Freeson said he hoped the report would encourage local authorities to take a thorough and critical look at their policies. The aim was not only to remove petty restrictions but also to encourage greater responsibility and initiative on the part of tenants.

There was no intention of allowing councils to evade their responsibilities. But there were cases where tenants were sensible and willing to make out and pay for improvements to their homes, and that sort of involvement should be encouraged.

The report was welcomed yesterday by the National Consumer Council, which called it a victory for common sense, and by the National Standing Conference of Tenants, which described it as an enlightened step in the right direction. But both groups expressed disappointment that it did not place greater emphasis on councils' duties to do repairs.

However, the Association of District Councils maintained that substantial safeguards already exist for the protection of council tenants because of the "democratic accountability" of local authorities.

Tax-cut promise: Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor

yesterday gave an undertaking to reduce income tax substantially if some of the Government's financial bogeymen which the Conservative women laid to rest by passing a resolution urging tax reform for pensioners, widows and one-parent families. He condemned the earnings rule on pensioners' income as "a great deterrent to work", with a tax rate that sometimes exceeded 100

per cent, and regarded the investment income surcharge on capital, which he said, often constituted a lifetime's savings, as "more like confiscation than taxation". He added that dividend restraint had led to a 14 per cent drop in dividend income to the small investor over 15 years, and should be stopped. Sir Geoffrey said the Conservatives, with their newly acquired emphasis on social conscience, were also working on a tax credit scheme for one-parent families. Mr James Prior, spokesman on employment, took up

other familiar grievances expressed by Conservative women on equality of employment and economic restraints suffered by small companies and the self-employed. Mr Prior acknowledged shortcomings in industrial training and employment opportunities but urged the women to further their interests through more active participation in trade unions. Commenting on a survey carried out, ironically, by Tory women themselves, which showed that 91 per cent of them never

attended union branch meetings, he said: "If you don't closed shop, go to your meeting and stop the unionising it." He added that it needed to regenerate businesses, of which it had 20,000 since 1945, to renew commercial tendency to "shut the shutters and go home". Mr Prior thought a single VAT and a rise in the VAT threshold would help by small businesses and the employed.

Asbestos substitutes 'may risk health'

By Neville Hodgkinson
Social Policy Correspondent

Materials made from glass fibre, increasingly used as a substitute for asbestos, should be handled as carefully as asbestos itself and the same protective measures applied to their use, the Government's Advisory Committee on Asbestos has told.

The warning is based on mounting evidence that it is the physical size and structure of asbestos fibres, rather than their chemical composition, that leads to health hazards.

Glass-fibre companies have been advised by researchers not to mill their products into the size range which asbestos is known to cause mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the lung or stomach.

But scientists' studies at Chelsea College, London, have shown that the dusts from a number of industrial glass fibres do contain many fragments falling within the dangerous sizes.

A division of opinion between the two main asbestos companies in Britain over the health hazards associated with different types of asbestos emerges in written evidence to the committee.

Turner and Newall, one of the companies, arguing that there is no need for tighter standards of asbestos dust control, draws attention to the company's experience of mesothelioma which is known to be associated with asbestos.

There has been particular concern over this invariably fatal disease.

The company says that although the number of cases is not great, it is surely more than a coincidence that where the type of fibre to which the cases were exposed is known, crocidolite, a blue asbestos fibre, was nearly always involved.

Crocidolite is subject to much more stringent hygiene

standards for those working with it than chrysotile (white asbestos) or amosite (brown asbestos).

Turner and Newall says it thinks that the difference should remain, and that it would be premature to depart from present standards for chrysotile and amosite before the long-term health experience of those exposed only to modern working conditions is known.

A different view is offered by Cape Industries, formerly the Cape Asbestos Company.

Cape is one of the world's principal producers of crocidolite, although little of the material has been imported into Britain since the differential standard was imposed.

Cape argues that the British have an exaggerated view of the dangers of crocidolite because of its extensive past use in asbestos spray to insulate public buildings, flats and ships.

Whereas dust produced in the largely wet asbestos cement process is slight and easily controlled, the opposite is true of sprayed crocidolite, the company says.

"Had the use of crocidolite been largely confined to asbestos cement wet processes, as indeed it was in most other countries, it is questionable whether such discrimination would have arisen."

"As it is, a degree of anxiety which neither can be justified on scientific grounds nor is shared by other countries which continue to use the material."

Parts of the written evidence received by the committee will be the subject of questioning during three public hearings it has organized at the Institute of Marine Engineers, 76 Mark Lane, London, EC3, on June 27, 28 and 29.

Selected written evidence submitted to the Advisory Committee on Asbestos 1976-77 (Stationery Office, £5).

Conserving game birds 'in interests of hunters'

By our Parliamentary Staff

The game bird hunter and the conservationist have the same interests and the hunter himself is a conservationist, Mr Jim Sturtard, assistant secretary of the British Field Sports Society, yesterday told a House of Commons committee studying an EEC draft directive on bird conservation.

In the past estate owners had planted copse to create a habitat for game birds and had helped to rear them, Mr Sturtard said. In best practice the hunter was himself a conservationist; nowadays hunters were often members of country conservation trusts.

His society was concerned that the society of taking game birds and eggs from the wild for restocking in the importation industry of game farming was not provided for in the EEC directive.

It was not possible to sell live game, only dead game, and the directive should be altered to cover that. Estate management made it necessary to crop wildlife. Surplus grouse, for example, had to be taken off or they would die.

Mr Sturtard said that falconry interests should also be provided for in the directive. As his society understood it falconry could be prohibited as a sport if the directive went through as it was.

The Queen reaffirmed her pledge 25 years ago to preserve and uphold the rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland. During those years, she said, the country had passed through difficult times: the aftermath of the Second World War and the dramatic and swiftly changing circumstances that had deep affection and admiration.

The Queen's presence, he said, was a supreme honour.

The Duke of Edinburgh was a man among men for whom they had deep affection and admiration.

"Will Prince Charles violate the Bill of Rights by marrying Roman Catholic Marie Astrid of Luxembourg?"

Pastor Jack Glass, chairman of the 20th Century Reformation Movement, who led the protest, said they were opposed to the way the Church of Scotland was manipulating the Queen for its own "pernicious ends" by bringing her into an illegal and unconstitutional association with Cardinal Gray, who attended the opening.

Dr Torrance was given a standing ovation as he handed over to the new moderator, the Rev. John Gove, Minister of Dunblane Cathedral.

Queen welcomed to the Kirk assembly

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attended the opening ceremony of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh yesterday. The 1,400 commissioners and a gallery filled with clergy and spectators stood as the Queen, preceded by the Lord Lyon King of Arms and his court, entered to a warm welcome by Dr Thomas Torrance, the outgoing moderator.

Thousands lined Princes Street and the Royal Mile in the cause of the Queen to watch the procession. There were a demonstration by a small group of Protestants. A banner asked:

"Will Prince Charles violate the Bill of Rights by marrying Roman Catholic Marie Astrid of Luxembourg?"

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HOME NEWS

Mr Murray accuses some judges of confusing trade unions with criminal conspiracies

Peter Evans
Labour Affairs Correspondent

John Murray, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday urged judges of making honours of Parliament by decisions "again and again in five history".

At the annual conference of the Prison Officers Association at Weymouth yesterday, "indeed they appealed to us to set up as more complete than Parliament itself to take the rights and duties of the old and the newer frames of industrial relations."

He said that if the House of Commons upheld the Court of Appeal's decision in the case of the Post Office, "we shall perhaps be called to seek appropriate redress in the law". He added the Court's "decision" was curious.

Murray's remarks come recent criticism of past decisions on union matters by Mr Foot, Leader of the House of Commons.

John Courier, of the National Association for Free Trade Unions, brought an action to the Post Office's unions from communications of the Post Office Acts by calling for a return on mail to South Africa, QC, the Attorney

General, is appealing to the House of Lords against a Court of Appeal ruling of January 28 that a private citizen can seek an interim injunction to prevent the commission of a criminal offence, even though the Attorney General has refused to give his consent to such an action.

Mr Murray told prison officers that their conference was being held "not far from Dorchester where the Tolpuddle martyrs were sentenced to transportation for forming a trade union, but we do not need to go back to 1834 to find evidence of the lack of understanding which many judges show of trade unions."

"I do not believe that this is a matter of conscious prejudice. It stems much more from their failure to distinguish between the combinations of the trade unions and conspiracies of the criminal law."

"To some judges, all combinations seem to amount to conspiracies against the public interest. They are preoccupied with individual rights as distinct from 'not opposed to collective rights' those rights in our complex industrial society which are defined collectively and must be sustained by collective means."

"Trade unions are not a state within a state. We do not claim large areas of law. But we do claim the right to seek to redress, through superior courts or by legal enactment judicial interpretations of laws

which run counter to the intentions of Parliament and social common sense."

Mr Murray also told delegates that he would welcome the Police Federation into TUC affiliation, if it decided to seek it, and the general council agreed.

Mr F. W. M. Money, the association's chairman, said the national executive had decided to cooperate no longer with budgetary control measures, said to have been introduced as part of the Prison Service's contribution to cuts in public spending.

"We believed that £2m in manpower cuts was more than the prison service could take," he said. "We believed there were certain places, such as dispersal prisons, where no cuts at all could be justified because of the volatile nature of the inmate population. Further to this we expressed profound misgivings about the effect the whole package might have on security and control."

"The service has proved that it cannot withstand a cut of £2m in man-hours."

"Our predictions regarding the effect in dispersed prisons were dramatically borne out with the riot at Hull and the damage to government property, after which allegations were made that the rioters had been treated brutally by prison officers."

This was the "train of events at Parkhurst, Gartree and now at Hull". The news media could always be guaranteed to give such allegations headlines treatment. Unfortunately they often omitted to say that the inmates involved were people of such dubious character that little they said could be trusted.

Mr Peter Waugh, a member of the national executive, said prisons, detention centres and dispersal prisons were boiling up.

"If we get a long, hot summer again the eruption at Hull will be one of many."

Mr Waugh said a deputation had warned Mr Rees a few days ago about the possibility of an explosion and had pleaded for more flexibility in budgetary control. Unless Mr Rees changed the present arrangements the association would have no choice but to take action to try to ensure long-term stability.

"It is a terrible thing to say, but we may have to close prisons."

New Secrets Act charges against journalists

When two journalists and a former army corporal appeared on remand at Tottenham Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday on charges under the Official Secrets Act, Mr Michael Coombe, for the prosecution, said the charges would not be proceeded with as more serious ones had been preferred.

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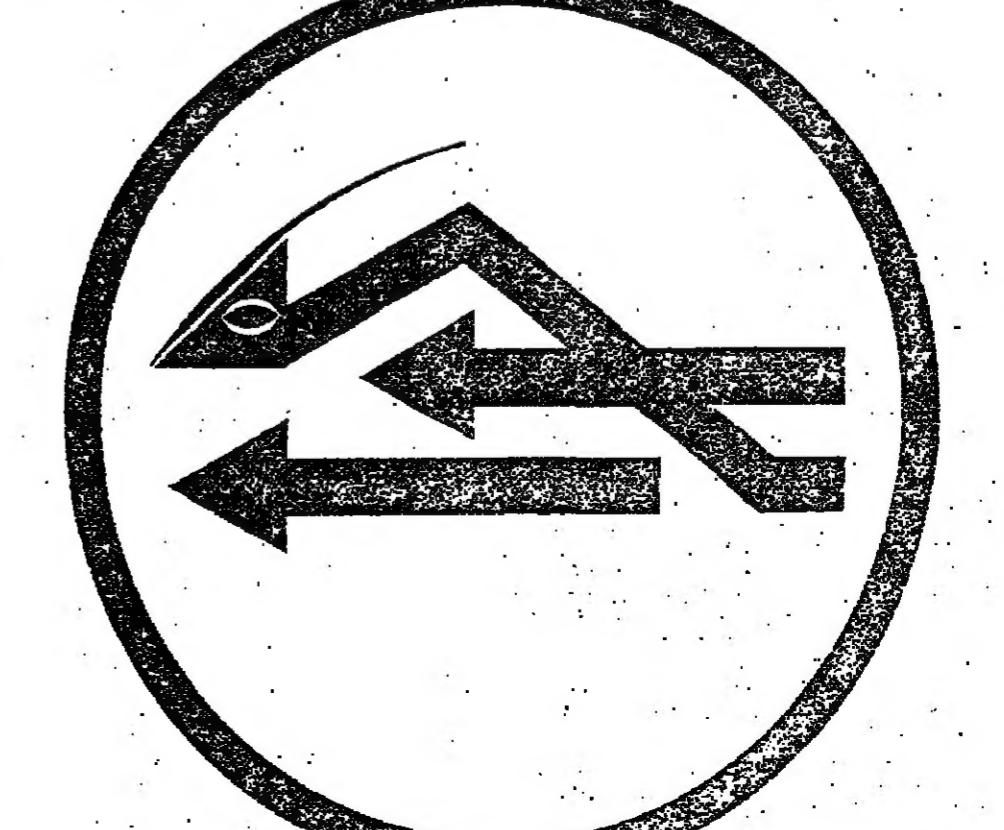
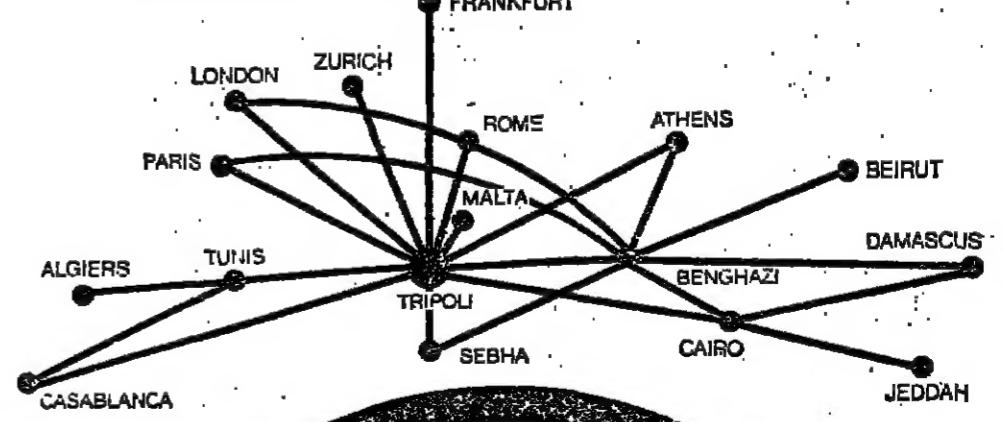
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Hospital for US woman who was at Prince's home

The woman at the centre of Monday night's security alert at the Prince of Wales's country home was committed to a psychiatric hospital yesterday.

A police officer said that Mrs Barbara Nieberg, aged 29, an American who struggled with members of the staff and broke windows at Chevening House, near Sevenoaks, Kent, while holding a clasp knife, had a "fixation" about the Prince and Jubilee year.

Detective Chief Inspector Frank Hughes said Mrs Nieberg, a widow, had been committed as in need of psychiatric treatment under section 29 of the 1959 Mental Health Act. She is being held under a three-day order, during which Home Office and United States Embassy officials will decide whether she is to be returned to the United States for treatment. She was examined by two doctors. She sold her arts and crafts business in Los Angeles to pay for her visit to Britain.

Announcement of pension increase today

By Pearce Wright
Social Services Editor

The next increase in pensions to be paid from November will be announced

in the Commons today by Mr

Emmerson, Secretary of State for Social Services. It will be at least 1% per cent, worth £3.30 a week to a pensioner couple, and £2 for a single pensioner.

But there are indications

that pensioners will be given a bigger rise.

families with children will receive the minimum the law allows.

The increases will affect

about 12 million people receiving

retirement and invalidity

pensions, unemployment and

sickness benefit, and a range

of other social security allowances.

That is to be decided in an annual review by law.

The family income supplement will

be included in the review for

the first time and supplementary benefit rates will also go up, although they are not legally tied to an annual review.

Satellite technology lures eminent Chinese scientists

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

In one of the most important exchanges of technical information between the United Kingdom and China for many years, a delegation of eminent scientists from the Chinese Academy is in Britain to investigate the latest methods for making reconnaissance surveys from satellite and aircraft.

Among the objects of investigation is a new scheme developed by the Centre for Overseas Pest Research in collaboration with Bristol University for detecting from space-craft the breeding grounds in remote districts of locusts and other pests.

After a request to the Royal Society, arrangements have been made for two groups, led by Dr Chen Shupeng of the Geography Institute, and Dr Chen Chen-ping, telecommunications section, to explore present and prospective applications of remote sensing techniques.

The scientists' request to the society mentions such areas as remote sensing

photography, multispectral and infrared scanning and its applications, side-looking radar and microwave imaging techniques.

The scientists in the groups are specialists in a wide range of electronic, radio, optical and computer subjects that make satellite reconnaissance possible. The breadth of the investigations is a clear indication of Chinese interest in so-called Earth Resources Technology Satellites, for mapping and mineral prospecting and for weather forecasting and agricultural planning.

During the next three weeks the scientists are to hold discussions with Post Office experts at the satellite communication station at Goonhilly, Cornwall, and with specialists at the Appleton Laboratory, Slough, the British Aircraft Corporation's electronics and space systems division, the experimental cartography unit at the Royal College of Art, and a number of university groups.

Former GLC deputy leader denies expenses frauds

Iloyd Harrington, aged 45, a schoolteacher and the former deputy leader of the Greater London Council, accused at the Central Criminal Court of expenses frauds, said yesterday:

"I have never fiddled anything in my life."

Mr Harrington of Salisbury Street, St Marylebone, has denied eight charges alleging

he made false expense claims while on the GLC and while a magistrate at Willesden.

The jury returned formal verdicts of not guilty yesterday on two further charges relating to his work as a magistrate when Judge Bas QC directed them to do so after a defence submission.

In evidence, Mr Harrington

described on occasion in August, 1973, when he was about to take a holiday. He said he had been "clawing about" with his assistants his rights.

"I did not have any money with me and I remember thinking I wanted my expenses. They were brought to me that afternoon, and as I remember they

were brought in cash."

He had not realized that as the school was on holiday at the time he was being paid any way and had no legal earnings because of his GLC work.

"It was not deliberate dishonesty," he said. He left it to his assistants to prepare his expense forms, but accepted responsibility for them.

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WEST EUROPE

Italy's small parties concerned over their political future

From Peter Nichols
Rome, May 24

The governing Christian Democrats hold talks today and tomorrow with the three small lay parties, all of whom are reacting vigorously to fears of an agreement between the Communists and Christian Democrats which would effectively cut these smaller groups out of their political inheritance.

This inheritance had already been diminished by the general election last year. The smaller parties suffered losses as there was a shift of opinion both towards the Communists and in the opposite direction to prevent Christian Democratic losses.

The talks this week sound trivial in the sense that they could be seen to involve little more than hurt pride on the part of the smaller parties. In fact, they are widely regarded as a crucial re-examination of Italy's problem of governmental stability and its ability to face the continuing crisis.

The talks at this stage are bilateral. The Christian Democratic leadership are seeing Liberals today and Republicans and Social Democrats tomorrow. The object is to seek agreement on a governmental programme among parties regarded as constitutional (everyone except the neo-fascists). The Christian Democrats have already talked with the Socialists and with the Communists.

Tomorrow the Socialist central committee begins a session devoted to defining its attitude and on Saturday the Christian Democratic national executive will examine the prospects for a joint meeting of all the parties concerned.

The importance attached to objections from the three small parties is shown today by the

the efforts made by both the Christian Democrats and the Communists to allay any fears of agreement over the small parties' heads. The Communist Party's newspaper *L'Unità* devotes its leading article today to reassurances. It is headed: "Unfounded suspicions". The Christian Democratic leadership has been regularly talking on the same lines for days.

The figures explain some of the fears. Christian Democrats and Communists combined have about 750 parliamentarians; the three small lay parties have about 50 between them and the Socialists have 86. The Socialists on their part are denying any fears of what they call "an internal Yalta", meaning a straight division of the spoils between the two big parties.

The real significance of what looks like re-assurance by the small parties at the way the tide has turned against them has nothing to do with pride. Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader, fears that an agreement may emerge that will not meet the country's problems.

He insists that the key to economic salvation lies in the ability of the politicians to impose sacrifices on the workers and that the only party that could possibly be able to do so—but even this is doubtful—is the Communists.

The Liberals are more concerned about making use of Communist help without bringing the Communists into full support of the Government instead of helping it indirectly by abstaining as they do now. For this reason the Liberals want a clearer definition of Christian Democratic strategy.

The Socialists insist that the problem is not one of forcing the small parties off the scene.

EEC fund 'not helping the poor regions enough'

From Christopher Warman
Strasbourg, May 24

An urgent review of the European Regional Development Fund was called for by Signor Antonio Glorizzi, the EEC Commissioner, for regional policy at the twelfth conference of European local and regional authorities here today.

He said that despite the fund having aided 3,300 projects in the past three years, the situation remained unsatisfactory because there was no common regional policy.

"There has been an increase in the imbalance between the better off and worse off regions and there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor. If this happened, the poor would turn away from the European association and look towards the Third World."

The report said this could only be avoided by redistributing assets and resources under a European New Deal to give the depressed areas a proper chance to develop.

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Heavily armed Dutch soldiers guard a railway crossing at Glimmen, close to where Moluccan terrorists are holding more than 50 hostages on board a hijacked train.

Agreement reached on coalition in Belgium

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, May 24

Mr Leo Tindemans, whose Social Christian Party was the main victor in last month's general election in Belgium, appeared yesterday to head a new four-party coalition government after more than a month of political horse-trading.

In an all-night negotiating session that ended at 4 am, Mr Tindemans secured the agreement of the Socialists and two small Flemish and French regional parties to a plan for constitutional reform.

Although there have been many false dawns in Belgium's search for a constitutional arrangement, satisfactory to both its Dutch-speaking and French speaking communities, the latest developments seem to promise real progress.

Mr Tindemans, who has been continuing to act as Prime Minister while trying to knit a new government together in the traditional style of Belgian coalition politics, described today's agreement "As an important turning point in the political history of the country".

The two small members of the Voksalie, the nationalist Dutch-language party, and its French-speaking counterpart, the Front Democratique des Flamands, based in Brussels.

The main concessions appear to have been made by the Voksalie, which emerged from last month's elections with two fewer seats in Parliament, having lost votes in key areas of Flanders.

The status of Brussels, which has a substantial majority of French speakers but lies in Dutch-speaking Flanders, has long been the main obstacle to agreements on a new constitutional structure.

The Flemish nationalists appear to have accepted that Brussels should be treated as a region in its own right, like Flanders and Wallonia, and should have its own directly elected legislative assembly and executive.

It has also been agreed that large French-speaking minorities in six Flemish communes on the periphery of Greater Brussels should have exactly the same access to bilingual administrative and social services as Flemings enjoy in the capital.

Correction

In a report from Brussels on May 17 Mrs Wimifred Ewing, the Scottish Nationalist MP, was stated to have objected to her exclusion from a delegation supporting Britain's case for exclusive national fishing limits. Mrs Ewing did not in fact wish to be included, as she has the opportunity to state her views in the Commons.

Fire hotel 'checked in 1930s'

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, May 24

The European Community should aim to develop a creative and constructive Atlantic partnership, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary said in a speech here tonight. It was fanciful, he declared, "to try to set up a false antithesis between cooperation with the Americans and preserving a European identity".

At a dinner given in his honour by the International Press Association, Dr Owen did not mention the French name, but his remarks were clearly directed towards Paris, which is deeply suspicious of Britain's supposed "special relationship" with the Americans.

Official French thinking was reflected in London to have been reflected in a leading article last month in *Le Monde*, which accused Britain of seeking to transform the EEC into a free trade zone of a deeply Atlantic colouring in which dreams of economic integration and autonomy would be abandoned.

In what was widely taken as an answer to this charge, Dr Owen said that it was "au-

Señor Suárez ahead as campaign opens

From Harry Delteilus
Madrid, May 24

The Centre Democratic Union, led by Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, got off to a running start today as the campaign leading up to Spain's first democratic elections for more than 40 years got under way officially.

The results of a poll published today by the independent Madrid daily *El País* put the Union in the lead, with prospects of getting more than 20 per cent of the vote.

The runner-up in the poll was the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, headed by Señor Felipe González, the young Seville labour lawyer, with more than 13 per cent.

Both parties had gained a point since the first voters' poll was taken a month ago. The neo-Francisco Popular Alliance, headed by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the former Interior Minister, and the Spanish Communist Party, the Democratic Federation, led by Señor Santiago Carrillo, also gained slightly but each still polled less than 6 per cent.

The poll, conducted last Wednesday and Thursday with 1,638 interviews in various parts of the country, indicated that at least 85 per cent of the population had voted.

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Its decision would be based

on an analysis of the pig industry throughout the Community. Mr Gundelach considered statements from British pig farmers about their own pigs "slightly exaggerated".

"The Commission will take its decision in advance of the next council meeting", Mr Gundelach said. It might decide not to allow any aid.

"When the minister says there is a British problem I don't think the Commission has ever quarrelled with that", he went on. "But is that the same as that which exists with pig producers in Europe as a whole?"

He and Mr Söderlin were speaking after a meeting of the EEC council of agriculture ministers in London. They will all sit down again in Brussels on Friday.

The subsidy, which has been paid from the end of January, is worth £3.50 on each animal and costs £1 a week.

Tension continued also round

OVERSEAS

Likud agrees to accept UN resolution on the occupied lands

Tel Aviv, May 24.—The right-wing Likud Party today declared its acceptance of the controversial United Nations Security Council resolution on the occupied territories (Resolution 242) and agreed to respect all the undertakings of previous Israeli governments, Likud sources said here.

The assurances were given by Mr Simha Erlich, the party's deputy leader, during negotiations with Mr Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change, whose support Likud needs to gain the next government.

The two-hour meeting was understood to have centred on Likud's refusal to concede territory on the West Bank of Jordan and the Democratic Movement's willingness to compromise for peace.

The two parties agreed on the need to conclude a peace with the Arabs, to go to Geneva for peace talks, to push for direct negotiations in preference to any other form of talks, and to oppose the creation of a Palestinian state, the sources said.

While Likud would like to see a government formed by mid-June, Mr Yadin is reported to be awaiting the results of important elections in the Histadrut trade union organisation for June 15. Because of the illness of Mr Menachem Begin, the Democratic Movement wants the vice-premiership for Mr Yadin. That would make him "the virtual leader of the government should Mr Begin's

illness worsen".

The Likud acceptance of Resolution 242 will turn on the interpretation of the Security Council text. Likud has always agreed to concessions on the Golan Heights and in Sinai. But

the party considers the West Bank "an integral part of the historic homeland of the people of Israel" and points out that before the Six Day War of 1967 Britain and Pakistan were the only two countries which recognized Jordan's sovereignty over the area.

Despite assurances from right-wing leaders that Mr Begin would become Prime Minister, the leadership of the next government remained in doubt today.

Mr Begin, aged 64, who suffered a severe heart attack two months ago, was taken to hospital early yesterday after collapsing of chest pains, and exhausted. Doctors said he would remain in hospital at least a week and could return to politics after further rest. But they gave warning that he would have to limit his workload for some time.

Informed sources said the party's leadership was already seeking "alternative" solutions to realize the problems of the Middle East negotiations without a full ministerial role.

Mr Begin has no heir apparent. Theoretically, the mantle of leadership would fall on Mr Ezer Weizman, the 53-year-old former air force chief, who heads the secondary position in the Histadrut.

But there were strong indications that the flamboyant Mr Weizman, who organised the successful election campaign, would not be a suitable candidate in the eyes of the other Likud factions which are headed by conservative somewhat sombre politicians.

The talks with Prince Feisal originally planned by Mr Carter's serial consul with Middle East leaders, also took on much greater importance with the victory of Likud in Israel.

President Carter, one is told, will assure the Saudis in very leased that he intends involving the Israelis in UN Nations resolutions 242, 338, relating to withdrawal from occupied territories, religious access to Jerusalem.

This second point was acknowledged indirectly by Mr Carter today in saying that both Saudi Arabia and the United States were "certain for deep conviction".

Mr Carter has been extremely far to direct crime on the Israel election. It is determined that he will be re-elected.

The Syrians have surrounded Bir Zeit, 12 miles south-east of Ramallah. Reporters trying to reach the village under heavy fire during the night from Israeli positions across the border, and the shelling of Nabi Salih resumed in the afternoon.

There was no comment on persistent rumours in Beirut that a large number of villagers had been killed in reprisal for an attack on Syrian forces trying to enter the village.

Tel Aviv, May 24.—Israeli military sources said today that they knew nothing about reports from Lebanon of Israeli artillery strikes.

Residents of Mehdia, close to the border, said that they had heard the sound of heavy bombardments on the Lebanese side of the border throughout the night. Reuter.

It was glad such last

were playing an increasingly significant role, not only in world's economy but also in society as well.

The arrival ceremony in the s

of the "visiting" repre

sentatives of Israeli

and Jordanian leaders.

Mr Carter departed from Washington by flying in the receiving plane. Mr John West, a former Governor of South Carolina, announced afterwards that Mr West was to be his Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

In Bihar state there was

case of one candidate fail

by both Congress and Ja

because the individual

rejected by the new ru

party, went back to his

colleagues.

In Haryana state Ja

rebel" have pub

accused Mr Charan Singh

Janata Party boss, of tryin

foist his nomine

for minister in the state. The

ministers said an "anti-Ja

wave" could frustrate

the popula

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Mr Gandhi's Def

Minister.

Unspoken in all is

feeling that Mr Moraji D

the Prime Minister, has

shown unease or unwilling

President OVERSEAS
welcome

South African Minister proposes confederation in which blacks would have more political rights

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, May 24
Dr Piet Koornhof, a senior cabinet Minister, today said that South African blacks who were discontent in "white areas" might eventually be included in a new political dispensation together with the country's Coloured and Indian populations.

It was the first time a government Minister has raised the possibility that blacks might be given political rights outside their tribal homelands. Hubertus van der Merwe had insisted that all of the country's 16 million were citizens of one of South Africa's nine "homelands".

Dr Koornhof, the Minister of National Education, told a conference in Cape Town that South Africa was moving in a direction of developing a federal political system, in which different groups would actually be able to participate in the central decision-making process.

Others in regard to Dr Koornhof's speech as one of the most important political

statements to have been made by a Government Minister since last year's riots in black townships and the first indication that the Government may be reorienting its race policies with regard to the nine million blacks who live in the so-called "white areas".

Dr Koornhof is known to his acquaintances that he regarded today's speech as the most important of his political career. It is certain to provoke widespread debate in business circles and is likely to stir considerable opposition in the party caucuses.

The Education Minister said that what was now needed in South Africa was the establishment of so-called "grey areas" in the white part of South Africa, or what he called cultural pluralism.

He said that the groups involved in such systems of cultural pluralism would comprise mainly the whites, Coloureds and Indians. But in a key section of his speech he went on: "However, there are those in South Africa believing that, in theory at least, blacks legally regarded as members of permanent communities within

South Africa may in time also be drawn into the new dispensation."

"There is a school of thought in South Africa which believes that these blacks as separate communities should be phased into the cultural pluralism orbit. Politics, especially in these times, are unpredictable and only time will tell whether this line of thought is feasible or not," he added.

Dr Koornhof went on to suggest that the Cabinet Council which was formed last year to include whites, Coloureds and Indians should be viewed as "the beginning of a process of institutionalization" of evolution which will culminate in a sophisticated parliamentary system.

He made his speech shortly after Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, arrived in Cape Town to a tumultuous welcome after his meetings in Europe with Mr Walter Mondale, the American Vice-President, and President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast. The whole of the Cabinet, as well as Nationalist MPs and senators, were among the crowd of several hundred who greeted him.

Muzorewa praise for British plan

From Michael Knappe

Johannesburg, May 24

Bishop Abel Muzorewa

leader of the Unite African

Council, said yesterday

that the latest Rhodesian

Government initiative was

the most reasonable so far and

as given good will on all

sides, a solution could be

achieved.

However, he displayed a funda-

mental difference with Mr

Smith the Prime Minister, say-

ing that there should be no

conciliation, other than as

a franchise. He also gave

warnings that if there was no

conciliation between rival

leaders the country was

heading for civil war.

Mr Smith said at the week-

end that he believed in high franchise qualifications and was strongly opposed to "the mob rule" of one-man-one-vote.

Today Bishop Muzorewa said it was too late for a qualified franchise. People with no education and no money had seen their vote right and die for majority rule. They had bought the right to vote with their blood.

Asked whether he envisaged a reconciliation of the rival nationalistic leaders and their separate guerrilla armies, the bishop said that if things continued with "external forces" trying to find "their own king of Zimbabwe", it would lead to "the rule of the jungle".

Bacteria 'instructed' to make insulin

Washington, May 24—Laboratory-bred bacteria have been engineered to make the gene for insulin, scientists report. Living bacteria that are able to make insulin have been one of the most discussed goals of recombinant DNA research, a controversial realm of genetic engineering known popularly as gene splicing.

Use of bacteria to produce insulin would provide a virtually limitless supply of the vital hormone. It would probably have an important impact on treatment and understanding of diabetes and could yield important research dividends as well.

In mammals and humans in particular, insulin is necessary to affect its production or in the body is the central problem in disease, a leading cause of death and disability.

Natural bacteria, however, do not make insulin and have generic instructions for doing so. Scientists, in the experiments reported at the University of California, San Francisco, have succeeded in transplanting into bacteria from rat cells that carry a genetic instruction for making insulin. It is believed to be the first time the gene for insulin, or any other important animal hormone, has been transplanted into bacteria. After the transplantation

succeeding generations of the bacteria continued to make copies of the insulin genes and related genetic material. The step in the research effort will be that of persuading the compromised genes to make the bacteria produce insulin.

"We have great confidence that it will be done. I would be surprised if it took more than six months," says Dr William Rutter, a leader of the research effort.

Now that the genetic instructions for insulin have been put into bacteria, the scientists say, there should be no major scientific obstacles to doing the same with the genes for human insulin. New York Times News Service.

One Medical Correspondent writes: "The application of genetic engineering to medicine has been theoretically possible for some time but none, the less, it is a welcome and important advance."

The practical implications are far-reaching. At present insulin and other hormones are extracted from animals such as cattle and pigs and purified as far as possible for human use, an expensive and time-consuming process.

If the bacterial synthesis can be scaled up to a commercial level the cost of preparation of these hormones could be cut and their purity increased.

Prices and incomes policy breaks down in Australia

Canberra, May 24—Australia's voluntary wages and prices freeze broke down today, only six weeks. The Arbitration Commission announced rises of up to 5.2 per cent for those earning more than \$A200 a week and 4 per cent for those in lower salaries.

Mr Malcolm Fraser, the prime minister, told Parliament that because the arbitration commission had failed to issue a notice that prices had risen, it must be regarded that the wages-prices freeze, as such, is over.

He blamed the trade unions, particularly Mr. Robert Hawke, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, for refusing to accept the principle of the freeze.

The pause had been planned to last three months, but today the commission rejected the Government's call to defer for three months the March quarter increase of 2.3 per cent.

Sir John Moore, president of the commission, said the ramifications of the freeze had not been defined adequately.

Dealing with an external issue, Mr. Fraser announced a set of safeguards on exports of Australian uranium similar to safeguards already applied by the United States and Canada.

He told Parliament that countries importing Australian uranium would not be able to reprocess it to produce plutonium, which could be used for nuclear weapons without prior agreement. Reuter.

five-year ban

on black

student leader

From Our Own Correspondent

Johannesburg, May 24

A senior official of the black

African Students Organisation,

Mr Sifiso Solumbo,

today banned for five years

order restricts him to King

William's Town, 300 miles south

Durban, and forbids contact

with the student group and

other "black" consciousness

organizations. Its president,

Stoffie Mngwenya, claimed

the authorities were trying

"put away" as many "black

totalitarians" as possible before

the 15th anniversary of the

sets riding.

Two American consular offi-

cials today denied that they had

an part in the meeting last

at which called on the Govern-

ment to allow Mr. Winnie

Madikizela to return home from

exile. They said:

An undertaking to review the case of Miss June Wright, the British woman charged with espionage and illegal entry has been given by President Sadi Baré of Somalia.

Mr. Baré told Mr. Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, now on a visit to Mogadishu, that he could not interfere in the individual proceedings which were reviewable once the legal procedure was finished. Mr. Rowlands made strong representations on behalf of Miss Wright, who is expected to stand trial at the end of this week or early next week.

She has been held in custody since November, when the boat on which she was sailing ran aground off the Somalian coast.



Children playing with matches are believed to have been responsible for a fire that destroyed 120 homes in Cobalt, Ontario, a mining town about 300 miles north of Toronto, yesterday.

Sudan seeks American aid after Russians leave

Khartoum, May 24.—President Nimeiry of Sudan, who last week expelled 70 Soviet military advisers to the Sudanese Army, today asked for American military aid. "All our military equipment here is out of date," he told reporters.

President Nimeiry made the request during talks he and Dr Mansour Khalid, the Foreign Minister, held with Mr Andrew Young, the visiting American representative at the United Nations.

The President was asked if he wanted American military advisers to replace the Russians who, he said, should have

gone two years ago because they were doing nothing and were not needed. He replied that what he wanted was American military equipment, which he knew was very modern.

President Nimeiry has asked the Russians to reduce the size of their embassy staff in Khartoum after the expulsion of the military advisers. He said the Soviet Embassy staff was three times as large as the next biggest diplomatic contingent in Sudan, that of Egypt, and five or six times the size of the American presence. Reuter.

Swapo asks UN to stop execution of murderer

Windhoek, May 24.—Black nationalists in Namibia (South-West Africa) appealed to the United Nations yesterday to try to stop the hanging here of a man paralysed below the waist, who has been sentenced to death for murder and theft under South African anti-terrorism laws.

They said they understood that Filemon Nangolo would go to the gallows tomorrow, although officials would not confirm this.

Mr Nangolo was convicted last September as an accomplice in the murders of Mrs Shirley Louw and her 12-year-old son Berlus at Groofontein in 1975, and of Mr Gert Walther, a farmer and his wife.

The detective said at the trial that Mr Nangolo was found to have been paralysed below the waist. Since then he has been partly paralysed.

Mr Daniel Tjongarero, information secretary of the South-West Africa People's Organization, said that Swapo had appealed to the international community to intervene because "we feel the execution would threaten to break down all possibilities of an internal solution" to the problems of Namibia. Reuter.

Mr Carter promises handicapped more help

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, May 24

President Carter last night promised the 36 million Americans who have some kind of physical handicap that the time for discrimination against them was over. Addressing a convention of handicapped people here, he said that their full human rights were long overdue.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare recently promulgated regulations providing that, under an act of 1973, any government organization or institution which receives federal funds must ensure that the handicapped have equal access to the facilities provided.

The president described the Act as a "bill of rights for the handicapped". He said: "We are going to enforce the regulations that tear down the barriers of architecture and we are going to enforce the regulations that tear down the barriers of transportation."

Mr Carter also said that the new rules will mean that state schools must provide handicapped children with a full education. Employers will be obliged to give handicapped applicants for jobs a chance to acquire the skills needed.

The president compared the progress of the handicapped with that of the blacks in his native South. He said that the Administration would bring together all the agencies more than 100 federal programmes which now deal with problems of the handicapped.

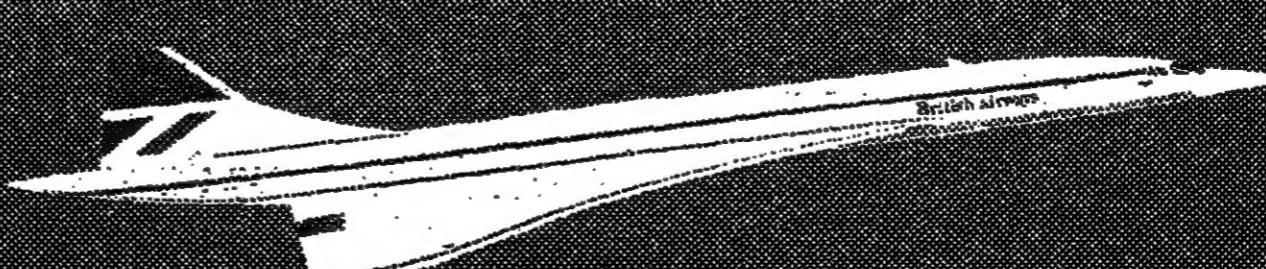
Mr Carter also said that only 35 per cent of American children are being vaccinated or inoculated against preventable diseases.

Kenton operation

Reading, Pennsylvania, May 24.—Stan Kenton, aged 65, the jazz band leader, was operated on here today to relieve pressure from a blood clot caused by a fractured skull. He is seriously ill. AP.

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As shown in H.M. Government latest tables 1977.





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EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

OVERSEAS

Soviet constitution to be adopted in time for 60th anniversary

From Edmund Stevens
Moscow, May 24

The long-awaited draft of a new Soviet constitution, endorsed by a special commission after 16 years of work, will be discussed in public at meetings in factories, collectives and state farms before finally being approved.

Authorized speakers will explain the draft and answer questions. Resolutions unanimously endorsing it are expected to be passed. Formal adoption by the Supreme Soviet will probably coincide with the eve of the sixtieth anniversary of the revolution next November, to add to the lustre and significance of the occasion.

It will be the fourth constitution since the Communists came to power. The first, the constitution of the Soviet Federation, was approved on July 18, 1918, by the fifth all-Russian Congress of Soviets. The second was the constitution of the newly formed Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, adopted on January 31, 1924, just after Lenin's death. The present one was Stalin's.

Plans for the new one were first announced by Nikita Khrushchev in his report to the twenty-second party congress in October, 1961. His reason was that the present constitution was out-dated and had taken place. The Soviet Union, he said, had reached a high stage of democracy. The new constitution, which we are proceeding to draw up, must reflect the new features in Soviet society in the period of the expanded construction of communism."

With regard to democracy, it is hard to see how the new draft could improve on the wording of the old constitution. Article 17 accords every constituent Soviet republic the right to secede from the union. Article 18 stipulates the right of every republic to establish direct relations with foreign states, to conclude direct agreements with foreign states and to exchange diplomatic and consular representatives.

Article 192 stipulates the right of each republic to organize its own military forces. Article 124 recognizes "freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda for all citizens".

Article 125 states: "In accordance with the interests of the workers and for purposes of strengthening the socialist order in the Soviet Union, the law guarantees: (a) freedom of speech; (b) freedom of assembly and meetings; (c) freedom of processions and demonstrations; (d) freedom of universal suffrage by secret ballot in all elections".

These articles are seldom mentioned. The mere notion of some republic exercising its constitutional right to secede is, to say the least, preposterous. Nor has any constituent republic its own diplomatic or consular service, although the Ukraine and Byelorussia have

what are nominally their own United Nations delegations, a concession to provide the Soviet Union with additional representation.

Some republics have their own "foreign minister" purely for reasons of protocol. When Mr Mikhail Mishikov, the former Soviet Ambassador to Washington, was named foreign minister of the Russian Federation, I asked him what his duties were. He smilingly answered: "I have not yet discovered."

It is unthinkable that any sovereign republic would set up its own military forces, as distinct from the central defence establishment. Freedom of worship exists within certain limits, but not freedom for proselytizing or religious education to match the freedom for anti-religious propaganda.

The guaranteed freedom of speech, press, assembly and demonstrations are denied by a qualifying clause interpreted as covering everything not conforming to the party line. Universal suffrage and the secret ballot are empty formalities, since for every electorate post there is only one candidate, approved by the party.

On April 22, 1962, the Supreme Soviet appointed a constitutional commission with Khrushchev as chairman. When he was ousted from power in October, 1964, Mr Brezhnev assumed the chairmanship. Since nothing more was heard on the subject until December, 1972, when Mr Brezhnev declared that the time had come to finish preparing the new constitution.

His next reference was in June, 1974, when elections to the Supreme Soviet were held. At the local polling station, where he had gone to vote, an Italian correspondent asked him how work on the draft was proceeding. Mr Brezhnev answered that it would soon be ready for publication, but the episode was not reported in the Soviet press.

The constitution next surfaced in Mr Brezhnev's report to the twenty-fifth party congress in February, 1976. He said that work on the draft was being done thoroughly without any air and was master over the German defence. So it could be that whereas Fairclough is seen as the man to score Liverpool's saving goals this season, he may be Toshack who makes history repeat itself.

To begin with, at least, Liverpool will probably be content to have only Keegan and Heighway in attacking positions, with Fairclough now returning to the team. And if Casanova and Kennedy will also be expected to emerge to go forward into the attack. It would have been sad if Liverpool had crowned their 12 years in Europe without Casanova.

So much now rests on Liverpool's mental as well as physical recovery after Saturday's other

SPORT

Football



Bob Paisley, the Liverpool manager, and Emlyn Hughes, the captain, being interviewed at Rome airport yesterday.

There is no substitute for Toshack

From Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Rome, May 24

Liverpool's defeated team at Wembley will be left unaltered for the most important match of their long European history here tomorrow night (7.15). The side who returned with a 1-0 defeat from Manchester United in the FA Cup go out into the heat of the Olympic Stadium with hopes of beating the West German champions, Borussia Mönchengladbach, and becoming the only third British team to win the European Cup.

On arriving here this afternoon Bob Paisley, the Liverpool manager, said he saw no reason why the team need not still mean that Johnson, who started in the attack on Saturday but was replaced by Callaghan, will begin here as a substitute, along with Fairclough and Toshack, who could make his first appearance for two months.

The possible inclusion of Toshack, if only as a substitute, could be crucial. At the last meeting of the club in the UEFA Cup final of 1972, he recommended that Fairclough and Toshack, who had been injured, should be given a chance in the team.

To begin with, at least, Liverpool will probably be content to have only Keegan and Heighway in attacking positions, with Fairclough now returning to the team.

And if Casanova and Kennedy will also be expected to emerge to go forward into the attack. It would have been sad if Liverpool had crowned their 12 years in Europe without Casanova.

So much now rests on Liverpool's mental as well as physical recovery after Saturday's other

Cup final that cost them the title. Before that match their captain, Hughes, said if they lost at Wembley they would also lose the European Cup. He was quick to change his mind, encouraged by the fact that Liverpool played well in defeat. Resilience is one of their prime virtues; but whether it was sufficient to sustain them through their most difficult match after such a tiring season, and in the warmth of an Italian summer evening, it is impossible to know.

At least Borussia, who had been beaten by Liverpool in the semi-final, will be determined to avenge themselves on Saturday because, he thought, the youngster would run himself to exhaustion and ineffectiveness on the tiring Wembley turf.

The heat here would affect Liverpool if they were to attempt their home style of relentless running, and one now recalls with some trepidation that Mr Paisley once also became involved in a similar drama during their League season that ended only last Saturday with a championship guaranteeing draw with the present European Cup holders, Bayern Munich.

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with the performance he needs before leaving for a new career, ironically, probably in Germany.

Borussia, too, will be determined to avenge themselves on Saturday because, he thought, the youngster would run himself to exhaustion and ineffectiveness on the tiring Wembley turf.

They will almost certainly field the same team who did well at Saturday's match, meaning that his three players who had been injured, and on whom they depend, Bonhof, Stielicke, and Heyenbach, will be strengthened by the side.

Neither Liverpool nor Borussia will be appearing in European Cup final before, and there is a new trophy to play for, Bayern having given it the old one after winning it three times. An era of European football, though, is ending.

Neither Liverpool nor Borussia will be appearing in European Cup final before, and there is a new trophy to play for, Bayern having given it the old one after winning it three times. An era of European football, though, is ending.

Both sides will be playing for the

larger share of the play, and

Borussia show a degree more skill.

In the end, though, it may be reduced to which side suffers the least in the evening sun, or even which side can afford the penalty kicks after extra time.

Liverpool: R. Clarence; P. Neal, T. Smith, E. Hughes, Jones, J. Case, R. Kennedy, J. Callaghan, T. McDermott, K. Keegan, S. Heighway.

Borussia: MG: W. Kneib; B. Vogts, H. Klinkhammer, H. J. Wittekamp, R. Bonhof, H. Wohlers, A. Simonsen, H. Wimmer, U. Stielicke, F. Schäffer, L. Heyenbach.

Referee: R. Wurtz (France).

Results yesterday

First division

ENGLAND v. MICKLEFORD

FINAL TABLE

	W	D	L	F	A	P	GF	GA
Liverpool	12	1	11	35	25	34	100	87
Portsmouth	11	2	12	34	24	33	98	82
Newcastle	10	3	13	32	24	32	96	83
West Ham	9	4	14	31	25	31	94	84
Leeds	9	4	14	31	25	31	94	84
Nottingham	9	4	14	31	25	31	94	84
Spurs	8	5	15	29	23	30	92	85
Bury	8	5	15	29	23	30	92	85
Wolverhampton	7	6	16	28	22	31	90	86
Coventry	7	6	16	28	22	31	90	86
Sheffield	6	7	17	27	21	32	88	87
Tottenham	4	9	18	26	20	33	86	88

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Swindon 1, Czechoslovakia 0.

Revie loses Beattie

By Lewine Mair

Andy Gray, who scored four goals for Aston Villa on Monday night, has withdrawn from Scotland's party for the home internationals, which begin on Saturday, May 27, and tour of South America.

The absence of Gray, the joint leading first division scorer with Arsenal's Malcolm Macdonald this season, is another blow to the new Scotland manager, Alastair Macdonald. Other than his already lost wife, he will be the first to leave the party named by his predecessor, William Ormond, earlier this month—Manchester United's defender, Houston, and forwards Eddie Gray (Leeds) and Pettigrew (Motherwell).

The replacements are Macari (Manchester United), Joe Smith (Aberdeen), and Cooper (Clydebank).

The England manager, Don Revie, is also having his injury problems. Captain of the Queen's Rangers, defender, has been replaced by Neil of Liverpool.

Manchester City will contact Mr Revie to day to let him know whether the striker Royle will be fit to join the England party.

Revie had another withdrawal when Bobby Robson, the Ipswich manager, informed him that Beattie was still unfit. However, Mills, who withdrew from the squad last week because of a knee injury, came through a friendly game in Israel, and was promptly restored to the squad.

It is about as good a bowler as Edwards, but some of his deliveries are less than ideal.

Revie must be out just after lunch, and then there was the customary Sunday afternoon siesta. All he can say in his favour is that he did give the Australians a hard time, and kept the opposition happy at least if they knew nothing about cricket.

It has been a varied tour so far for the Australians. They have not won the worst of the weather problems, though he may not be quite good enough in either capacity for Test cricket.

Miller is probably nearest at the moment among those playing for MCC today, to being up to doing a full turn of the bowlers in the Test match, as well.

But all of them, none of them, need to prove himself in a Test wicket.

As always, a place is waiting for the England side for an all-rounders, though he may not be quite good enough in either capacity for Test cricket.

Miller, who is nearest to the mark, will be the best of the lot.

Revie has been told that he has nearly been beaten by Glamorgan's Eddie Beattie, by Somerset, and that will be his best chance of getting into the team.

It is not a strong team, but the Australians were not about to give up, in the circumstances.

Three times in a week they have failed to cope with county bowling on the spring pitches.

But by no means does it follow that they will not do better in the international sides have had trouble in adjusting to England, especially in wet weather. The 1972 side, for instance, was bowled out for 23,

Cricket

No rancour or rain required at Lord's

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

For a variety of reasons the Australian team has suffered a subdued start. There has been the weather, for one thing; which was no sine for so long, and the Packer affair for another, which has been left to simmer temporarily while the views of the English counties are being sorted out. Today, however, the MCC turned down a new contract with Worcestershire after rain.

The Australians have chosen what could be their Test team, except that Walter, not playing in the first Test, has been omitted.

They decided that Imran Khan, the Pakistani Test all-rounder, can play for Sussex as county champion and one day later, from July 30, the MCC Council announced yesterday.

"The committee have come to the conclusion that in this case it would be proper to waive the requirement to be specially registered from July 30," said John Woodcock, who will be in charge of the MCC Appeals Committee.

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PORT

ennis

Mottram's quality and experience too much for unsettled Spaniard

John Rex Bellamy

Paris Correspondent

Paris, May 24

One of the interesting things about the French tennis champion is that even during the most difficult period of his career he is always something unusual on. Today, for example, he was supposed to be a national strike. This produced little crowds, because the citizens were nothing better to do than sit home and improve their

the threatened absence of public transport never happened; the 'Metro' was still functioning. But the electricity services cut off most of the day.

He was not alone in the dark within the privacy of dressing rooms. There were ladies and moches. But there was a lot of ribald humour; and women were somewhat purer than they could not be.

The night ended less chec-

than it had wished.

There also emerged what is probably the most serious. The American transsexual failed a sex test

Rome last week, took another Paris yesterday, and withdrew from competition, being sent home to America.

The story of Richard is essentially pathetic but has also become slightly comic and boring. It is to be said that we have heard the tale many times before, and it is not for the international circuit and come to terms with a situation that demands a deal of sympathy.

Symmetry is also a word which readily comes to mind when considering what happens to the men who compete here.

They were six in the draw—their only one to survive the first round was Christopher Mottram, the only British survivor in Paris.

After sixteen days for four weeks, and last week's tournament at Düsseldorf, and still needs a lot of match play before he can hope to regain peak form. The interval after Mottram's set was more than welcome, "the steady thing,"

François Jauffret, a Frenchman who prefers the company of his wife and children to the prospect of a second-round victory.

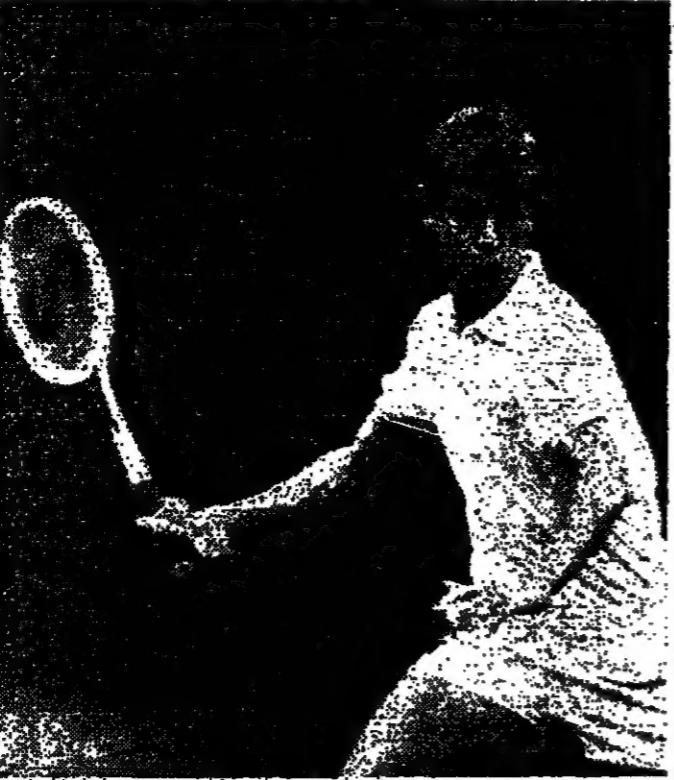
Jauffret, who has had a distinguished career, has acquired a considerable education here through his capacity to brave and sometimes beat players with bigger reputations. Today the boy is in the other too. He had to come back

a full-time tennis player, he left-handed boy, uses a lot of spin and demonstrated his skill by winning the title of the Spanish open championships in Barcelona last year. But he is not yet good enough to deal with a player of Mottram's quality and experience.

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Christopher Mottram the only British survivor in Paris.

from two sets down to beat Frank Gebert of West Germany, a youngster coached by the late and lamented Baron Gottfried von Cramm.

Jauffret also marked the publication

of that invaluable BP Year Book, *World of Tennis* (1977) (384 pages), published by Macdonald and Jane's at £4.50 hard back and £3.25 soft cover. This is a new edition, which, like its predecessor, has been considerably improved by revised and expanded biographies of players and a section listing individual records in the Davis Cup and Federation Cup fixtures.

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THE ARTS

Robert Bolt on the Russian revolution

The event was so terrible, the qualities so strenuous, the colour so total and the outcome so tragically far short of what was intended, that to think it steadily is to be overtaken by primitive pity and I began to wonder why had ever written this before, when I began to be myself and realized why.

Robert Bolt, talking of *State of Revolution*, his Gorky-Stalin Soviet play, it opens at the National tomorrow with Brian Blessed and Bryant.

Tenace Rigby in those roles. There is perhaps a of logic in that the play who chronicled the games of Tudor England successfully in *A Man for All Seasons* and *Vivat! Vivat!* should now turn to the political event of the twentieth century—presumably, over, any man who has seen the screenplays for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Doctor Zhivago* is unlikely to be moved by the short epic-scale November 1917 revolution.

Why else did Bolt begin to write? "I began to write because you simply cannot get away from it." Act One is *One Morning Lenin's Trotsky?* Just popped up.

"What did Bolt begin to write?" "I began to write because I have second thoughts, once started to write?"

Because you simply cannot get away from it." Act One is *One Morning Lenin's Trotsky?* Just popped up.

"What is so terrifying about the storming of the Winter Palace better than Eisenstein anyway? The only thing that worries me now is whether the film will be good."

Bolt, now 52 and recovered from the battering his private life took at the end of his marriage to Sarah Miles, lives at Totnes in Devon with the nine-year-old son of that marriage and the 3,000 pages of notes which he made during his research for *State of Revolution*.

I got totally obsessive about having to read everything ever written about the revolution and the more I studied it the more I began to see horrifying parallels with the way we live now: we seem to be drifting into a revolutionary state of mind, the study of recent events and decisions, but where

old writes as an ex-member of the Communist Party. "My wife was an automatically left-wing and when after leaving school I worked in Ministry as a central heating engineer, the only intelligent people I knew were all members of the Party. At that time the Russians were our gallant Eastern allies and just being a Communist seemed to fill entire days of my life. Then gradually I found I was quarrelling with everything the Party stood for, it being still the time when Stalin was held up as all that was wonderful and nobody talked much about the invasions; and so after asking a lot of naive questions about freedom I resigned and lost a lot of friends in the process."

"Then for a while I retreated into what the Party calls a life of privation but the events of the past ten years have aroused my political interests again, hence this play. What did they all think they were doing, and where did it all go wrong?"

Was there not, though, a temptation to film rather than stage a story like this?

"No, never; who could film the storming of the Winter Palace better than Eisenstein anyway?" The only thing that worries me now is whether the film will be good."

What is so terrifying about the Russian revolution is that nobody ever really understood it: Fabergé was doing his best business in 1917, the Czarina was so far to the right she made Mrs Thatcher look like Disraeli, and everyone thought the bombings in Petrograd were just students wishing to draw attention to themselves. If the Czar had had the remorseless sense of responsibility the revolution might never have happened.

But putting it all together on the stage, trying to make it look simple without simplifying too much, and at the same time keeping it moving like life, so that you don't spend hours listening to exposition—that's been the hardest work of all. It's like a three-dimensional crossword, and at times I was tempted to show all the workings of it so that critics would have something to write about in much the same way that Fellini used to superimpose scratches on his films to give them a certain mercifully, mercifully,

it's one thing to walk into a revolution the way the Russians did, it is quite another just to be drifting aimlessly towards one motivated by nothing more than anger and envy. Our revolution, if and when it comes, will have no idealism of any kind; it'll just be very, very nasty. People tell you to look at the crowded streets and shops and restaurants and stop fussing; well, the night the Bolsheviks came to power in 1917, the restaurants were full, Karsavina was dancing at the Bolshoi and Chaliapin was singing *Gedourov*; it all happened in a moment of apparent wealth and stability. The only difference here is that if we do get into a fight it'll be the Right who win it; the Left at the moment couldn't manage to take over an all-night hamburger bar successfully, and if they have an argument with a policeman they call it a confrontation.

"What is so terrifying about the Russian revolution is that nobody ever really understood it: Fabergé was doing his best business in 1917, the Czarina was so far to the right she made Mrs Thatcher look like Disraeli, and everyone thought the bombings in Petrograd were just students wishing to draw attention to themselves. If the Czar had had the remorseless sense of responsibility the revolution might never have happened."

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complain about. The moment you try to make a play look simple, everyone accuses you of being facile."

So what, now that *State of Revolution* belongs to its actors, does Bolt do next?

"A film script, one that's been commissioned, mercifully,



Photograph by Harry Kent

The Alchemist
The Other Place,
Stratford-on-Avon

Irving Wardle

With two productions playing on the South Bank followed by his Royal Shakespeare Company studio debut, Jonson is enjoying the kind of revival with which we failed to honour him when we failed to honour his birthday year: a fact which I register with a mixture of gratitude and amazement at the opening quarrel, won hands down by Susan Dury's spiffire Doll, one has no great hopes of her two, bickering partners.

When the trusting Dapper (Alan Cady) sets foot in the trap their change is slow to come, and the gangster's blustering layabout Face springs erect as the dashing Captain, brandishing his sword and a duellist's eye-patch: while John Woodvine's Sublime likewise changes into an impressive sage in skullcap and mittens, portering about his mysteries like a benevolent old

also given extra masks: Mr Woodvine's including that of a cloaked authoritarian image for the benefit of the Anabaptists, and a loin-clad Scors flagellant for the benefit of Sir Epicure (a Billy Butterfish Paul Brooke, whose crescendos of sensual fantasy repeatedly threaten to carry him off with a heart attack).

The piling up of obstacles powerfully intensifies the comic suspense of each new knock on the door. And Mr Nutt excels in setting scenic changes between the inner and outer environments, particularly at the end, where the street commotion and Lovewell's return is matched by stealthily inaudible activity inside as the gang rescue the house to order.

Of the gulls, I particularly liked Nickolas Grace's speechless shy but indefatigably demanding Abel; and Roger Rees's desperate Dutch Ananias. Meanwhile, the great motive for all the fun gets due and serious emphasis. Periodically, in an atmosphere of tensely suspicious concentration, the gang add up their current winnings: and, at the end, McKellen, as the solo winner, is left grinning balefully at the house, coins trickling through his fingers, as the lights fade.

The Acharnians
Sadler's Wells

Ned Chailliet

For their first London season since democracy was restored to Greece, the Greek Art Theatre have chosen to begin with Aristophanes' *The Acharnians*, the story of one man who waged peace while his city, Athens, waged war against the Spartans. Ribald and pointed, the play is passionate in its pacifism and, like all Aristophanes' plays, allows no quarter to arguments for war.

To decorate the fable Karolos Kous has tapped the tradition of shadow plays, fixed the choral chants in contemporary Greek music, costumed his characters and chorus in styles that range from patchwork splendour to sackcloth and masks made of gourds. Dikaiopolis, the farmer whose desire to end war leads him to make a thirty-year peace with

Sparta for himself, comes on danglingがら from a backpack, wearing a sword and helmet, and fighting against Cleon and the obnoxious war-mongering General's fellow citizens.

Before Dikaiopolis's private peace can bring him any joy, he comes near to losing his life at the hands of the chorus of elderly coal merchants. But, borrowing tragic props from the dramatist Euripides and putting his-head on the chopping block, he persuades the chorus that peace is the best policy. While the warriors about him are losing sleep and suffering wounds and indignities, Dikaiopolis plays, allows no quarter to arguments for war.

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Kouris's staging is relentlessly expansive, cutting through much of the language barrier with exuberant singing and dancing. He constantly fills the stage with ingenious transformations of the chorus and his divisions of the choral speeches sometimes suggest the marker-place, sometimes the general resolutely does his armour might be more clearly seen. But, though it lacks a peaceful centre of its own, the production vividly animates Aristophanes.

If the pace would slacken towards the end, and the constant frenzy cease, more dimensions might be touched and the magnificent scene of the peaceful Dikaiopolis preparing for a banquet while the warring general resolutely does his armour might be more clearly seen. But, though it lacks a peaceful centre of its own, the production vividly animates Aristophanes.

Sheridan Morley

The dozen-odd numbers include a lyrical little trio as the Seigneur admires Fanchette to his parents' respective pleasure and connoisseurship; a brilliant interplay duet between Madame Simon and one of the visiting ladies; a comic relief number; a quinari of riddles; a series of dances; vivacity as charges and counter-charges are flung back and forth. It is interesting that the rurals tend to have the more direct Italianate songs, the sophisticates the more archly French ones.

The production, by Opera Buffa in the French Institute's suitably small theatre, has both style and charm. There was a

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PARLIAMENT, May 24, 1977

Minister praises effectiveness of fishery protection

House of Commons

Studies are as far as the provision of new ships to replace the Ton class minesweepers to the fleet protection squadron. Mr. Duffy, Under Secretary for Defence for the Royal Navy, said:

"Asked whether he was satisfied with the new class of vessels in the extended fisheries protection role, and with the enforcement measures for fisheries protection, Mr. Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab) replied: I have no reason to doubt the effectiveness of our arrangements for fisheries protection which we keep under constant review."

Three more offshore patrol vessels of the Island class are due to be delivered to the Royal Navy before the end of the year; our experience with the first two, HMS *Javelin* and HMS *Orkney*, indicates that they will prove to be most effective in the fisheries protection role.

Mr. Edwin Wainwright (Deeside Valley, Lab)—A good many people think our patrols are not fast enough to catch fishing boats. It is rather ludicrous to have patrol boats not speedily enough to catch the pirates. Can we assure us that our patrol boats can catch them when other countries fish in our coastal waters?

Mr. Duffy—The maximum speed of the Island class is 16 knots. This is sufficient for normal protection duties. Contrary to popular belief very few trawlers are capable of 16 knots and fish at three to five knots. There are faster ships such as tugs available which can be called out at short notice to support the patrol ships if the need arises.

Taking account of the time available for procurement and at a total cost of £17,500,000 we believe we are getting good value for money with the new Island class.

I spent yesterday at sea in HMS *Orkney* and for most of the time our speed exceeded 16 knots.

Mr. James Johnson (Kingston upon Hull, West, Lab)—Participating in the fisheries protection role, the editor of the *Daily Mail* has seen the limits. Could he give us for the first six months a list of boardings, arrests and, if possible, fines so that we know something is happening?

Mr. Duffy—it is an impressive record, rather vindictive our enemies, it is important to have the Island class as well as providing otherwise for fisheries protection.

From January 1 to May 16 this year there have been 500 boardings of foreign fishing vessels and 120 arrests of British fishing vessels by the Navy. About 60 of these have been contributed by the new Island class.

There have been four arrests resulting in conviction for contravention of fisheries legislation within the old 12-mile limit and nine such cases within the 12-mile belt.

HMS *Javelin*, the first of the new class, has caught a French trawler only yesterday.

Mr. Patrick Wall (Malmesbury, C)—There is a need for a small number of fast quick reaction vessels which would be used to the Navy in the event of war. Will this be a serious consideration?

We have been raising it for two years.

Mr. Duffy—Our options are open. So far the kind of vessel he has described has not been built. HMS *Javelin* was built in 1973. The Island class so far have not been laid in speed. At present the kind of situation he envisages has not arisen.

Talks proceeding on help for pig industry

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Mr. John Silkin) is pressing his colleagues in the EEC on the urgent need for action to help the British pig industry. Mr. Edward Bishop, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in reply to a private notice question:

Mr. John Poynton, Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Yeovil, C) asked if the minister would take the opportunity to press the visit to the country of the European Economic Commission to consult him on measures necessary to save the United Kingdom pig industry from the total disintegration with which it was now threatened.

Mr. Bishop—The minister will certainly take the opportunity of his presence in this country of Commissioners Gunderschmidt and his colleagues from the EEC and Commissioner Gundelsieck to consult him on measures necessary to save the United Kingdom pig industry from the total disintegration with which it was now threatened.

Mr. Bishop—The minister will certainly take the opportunity of his presence in this country of Commissioners Gunderschmidt and his colleagues from the EEC and his colleagues from the European Court. There is not a minister which one takes lightly.

There has been every indication that this Government have done the utmost that can be expected in the interests of the pig industry.

It is the view of the European Commission that the United Kingdom must have the opportunity to express its views on the future of the pig industry.

Mr. Silkin proposes to make a statement about the future of the subsidy for the pig industry in the near future before the House goes into recess (on Friday).

Mr. Poynton—A situation of great gravity has been reached and matters simply cannot be allowed to drift. Would Mr. Bishop suggest to the minister that he asks the Commissioners to take similar action to that taken by the EC in respect of eggs in 1975 under Article 135 of the Treaty of Accession and reduce substantially the amount of the MCAs for a period of, say, three months?

Mr. Bishop—He has had discussions with Mr. Gundelsieck on the situation and I do not think it will be helpful to go into the matter further until discussions will take place except that the point made by Mr. Poynton will be borne in mind in the next two days.

Mr. Poynton—That is not good enough. (Conservative cheers.) Will he not at least agree to press on the minister that he has the right to do what he wants with the request that he passes it on to the Commissioners who are here?

Mr. Bishop—It would help the House if I were to say that all the suggestions made today will be conveyed to the minister. I am not saying that some of his ideas may not have been in his mind already.

Mr. Peter Munn (West Devon, C)—It is not good enough. Every day's delay is another nail in the coffin of the pig industry and the Govern-

ment have to do something.

The Government have got the pig industry into this mess and they must take some action now and not leave the industry before it is too late.

Mr. Bishop—The minister has not been helping. He did secure an 8 per cent change in the MCAs at the end of last year. We have made a change in the green pound. We have given the subsidy which he agreed to the departmental budget.

It is the view of the European Commission that the United Kingdom must have the opportunity to express its views on the future of the pig industry.

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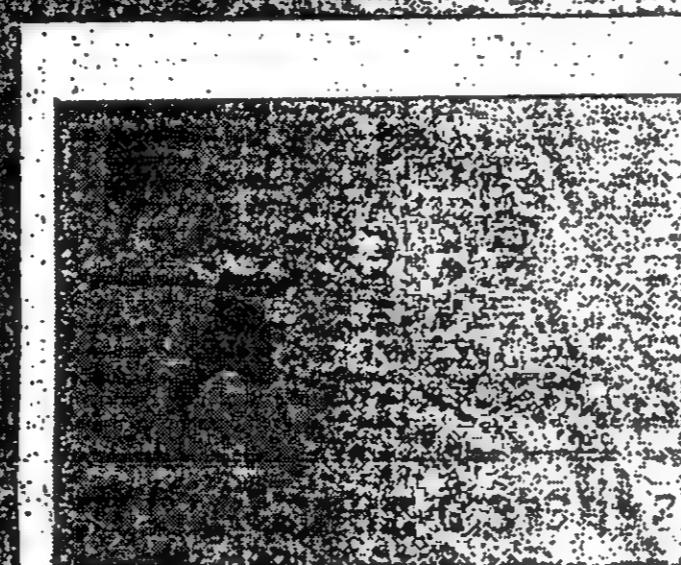
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Peter Hazelhurst talks to the controversial Mr Lee Kuan Yew

Singapore: the case for putting strings on liberty

Singapore, May 24

Like many Asian leaders, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's somewhat controversial Prime Minister, is convinced that the West's concept of liberal democracy and human rights cannot be applied as a yardstick for developing nations of Asia.

Mr Lee, a British-trained barrister, is obviously concerned by the West's preoccupation with human rights. He admits that 61 political prisoners have been detained without trial under Singapore's Internal Security Act, but argues that certain liberties in a developing nation sometimes have to be sacrificed for the sake of economic development and security, and to prevent communist oppression.

"You cannot expect to find in Asia or Africa norms and standards which did not even exist in Western Europe 30 years ago under Hitler, or even in the Southern states of America in the 1950s," Mr Lee says.

Singapore's dispirited opposition leaders interpret Mr Lee's rationale as an attempt to justify an erosion of political rights and his having held power for the 17 years since independence.

However, in spite of widespread allegations of political oppression, there can be little doubt that Mr Lee and his ruling People's Action Party enjoy the overwhelming confidence of Singapore's 2,000,000 citizens.

There can be little doubt, however, that Singapore is slightly perturbed by President Carter's forceful policy on human rights.

Setting out his views on this issue and on the future of South-East Asia during an interview with *The Times* this week in his office in the Istana, the former governor-general's residence, Mr Lee said: "We must accept the fact that we have got an American President who sets great store by human rights. It is an article of faith with him."

But we have got to hope that his measures are sufficient to prevent us from being able to take into account the different historic cultural and value systems of different people in different parts of the world in different stages of development."

When asked to explain why the Japanese had adopted the Western world's norms on liberal democracy and Singapore had not done so, Mr Lee replied: "The electoral processes and the reasons why people vote for a party have been different. I still think they



Mr Lee: certain liberties may have to be sacrificed.

British. This did not prevent the communists from picking up 30 per cent of the vote in 1963. In a recent by-election the Workers' Party increased their vote. I do not want to get into a situation where we remove the ballot paper numbers and then, after the Opposition loses, they will accuse me of stuffing me box with ballot papers marked in our favour," Mr Lee argued.

The Prime Minister said that he would welcome an articulate opposition force but his opponents were never returned to Parliament because they always attempted to appeal to a section of the electorate which supported the communists in the 1960s.

I asked Mr Lee: Although you have transformed Singapore into a glittering example of economic progress in Asia, the officially condoned National Trade Union Council alleges that 60 per cent of the population lives below the set resistance level for a family of four?

"I dispute the accuracy of that survey," he replied. "But I would grant you that there is still 25 to 30 per cent of the population below what the NTUC and we believe to be the minimum desirable standard of nutrition, clothing, and shelter."

In the immediate future I am not concerned. America is the anchorman of the Western world, and Japan is important. Next in Asia is Western Europe. Turning to the problem of the security of South-East Asia, Mr Lee said he was confident that the People's Action Party now controls all of the 69 seats in Parliament. Did this not leave the impression that Singapore was now a one-party state?

"Ballot papers have always been numbered from the time they were introduced by the

(the Japanese) are different, in spite of the recent shifts as a result of the Lockheed case.

"It is a different system altogether. It goes through the process of the poll but the values are different, their norms are different, what they expect of a Japanese politician or a Japanese government in office is different.

To begin with, let us not forget they were already an industrialised society at the end of the war. They were prepared to give their Western-imposed Constitution, drawn up by General MacArthur, a go. And it turned out very well for them.

The Korean war came. The Japanese recovery was aided by American investments and away they went. It has been

growing over more than two decades and the Liberal Democratic Party has been in office since 1955.

Asked why political prisoners

in Singapore had not been placed on trial through the process of law, Mr Lee said: "If it could have been done that simple way, the Malayan Communist Party would not be what it is.

"There would never have been an emergency in 1948 which the British were successful in putting down only after 12 years, including the deportation of 90,000 communists and their supporters and at one time the detention without trial of 20,000 communists."

The Prime Minister also gave an assurance that political prisoners in Singapore will be released immediately if they are prepared to denounce the Communist Party of Malaysia's policy of overthrowing the Government by violence.

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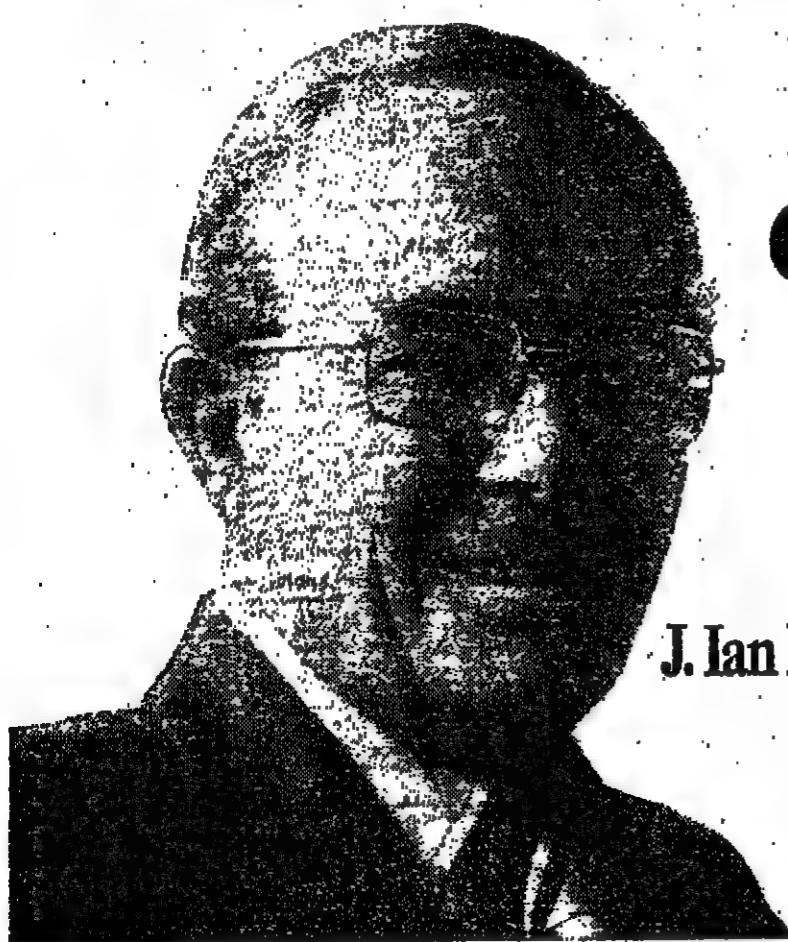
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Sifam meters and collet knobs feature on the control panel of this portable laboratory for analysing water quality which is made by Sifac Limited of Walton-on-Thames.



"While we make our own commercial judgements, Midland's banking viewpoint is always valuable."

J. Ian McKenzie, Managing Director, Sifam Limited

Sifam Limited of Torquay are leading manufacturers of electrical measuring and indicating instruments and collet control knobs. Says Ian McKenzie, Sifam's Managing Director, "Ours is a bespoke business with 2,500 live accounts covering every kind of industry. They all need measuring instruments—known simply as meters—for uses as varied as the monitoring of heart/lung machines, the analysis of the composition of gases, and the complex multi-tracking of an LP by the latest rock superstar.

"Our business is about precision—in design and manufacture—and in planning our production to other people's time schedules. To run a company like ours successfully, we have to set high standards of efficiency and organisation. We budget down to the shoe laces. And we make the same high demands on our business partners.



Purpose-built machines to produce made-to-order Sifam meters.

"We have dealt with Midland Bank for a long long time and never found them wanting in any way."

"We work very closely with the Midland," says Mr. McKenzie, "so they have to have an intimate understanding of our objectives. They provide orderly and consistent responses to the fluctuations in our cash flow requirements. They have also facilitated the extensions to our factory premises. While we make our own commercial judgements, Midland's banking viewpoint is always valuable."

Precision is Sifam's business; quality control is crucial.

"The world is our market and Midland's support is truly international."

"Our direct overseas business comprises roughly 20% of our current turnover, and here Midland Bank expertise and depth of service are important. Through their International Division they are able to obtain assessments of the status of new foreign customers. They assist us with the feasibility studies we carry out before deciding to enter new markets."

How does Midland Bank Group fit in?

"I am ever conscious that the Midland is a group of companies with a range of financial services that can be integrated to Sifam's needs," says

Mr. McKenzie. "Forward Trust have helped

in the purchase of large items of plant

but where more appropriate . . .

Midland Montagu Leasing have also been able to assist us. The Bank are always quick to get an opinion on a proposition from any company in Midland Bank Group."

Checking the accuracy of Sifam meters.

A wide range of Financial Services

Whatever your company's size and style, or the kind of banking service you need, you'll find the Midland people good and businesslike to deal with. Your Midland manager can also help you with access to services provided by all the powerful companies that make up Midland Bank Group.

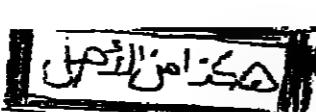
Services that include facilities for term loans, leasing, hire-purchase, merchant banking, equity capital for growth companies, international insurance broking and advisory services, international and export finance, travel, factoring, investment management and trust services. Also, for very large companies, Midland's Corporate Finance Division has a select team that can work directly with the company to make the best possible use of the wide range of Group services.

Talk to your local Midland manager—he can put you in touch with all the right people.



Midland Bank Group

Principal trading companies: Midland Bank Limited, Clydesdale Bank Limited, Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Limited, Clydesdale Bank Insurance Services Limited, Scottish Computer Services Limited, Northern Bank Limited, Northern Bank Development Corporation Limited, Northern Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited, Northern Bank Finance Corporation Limited, Northern Bank Trust Corporation Limited, Midland Bank Trust Corporation Limited, Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited, Midland Bank Finance Corporation Limited, Forward Trust Limited, Midland Montagu Leasing Limited, Griffin Factors Limited, Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Jersey) Limited, Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Guernsey) Limited, Midland Bank Insurance Services Limited, The Thomas Cook Group Limited, Thomas Cook Limited, Thomas Cook Overseas Limited, Thomas Cook Bankers Limited, Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited (Incorporating Drayton), Drayton Montagu Portfolio Management Limited, Guyerzeller Zurnmont Bank AG, Midland Montagu Industrial Finance Limited, Jersey International Bank of Commerce Limited, Bland Payne Holdings Limited, Bland Payne Limited, Bland Payne Reinsurance Brokers Limited, Bland Payne (UK) Limited, Southern Marine & Aviation Underwriters Inc, Bland Payne Australia Limited, London American Finance Corporation Limited, British Overseas Engineering & Credit Company Limited, Drake (UK) International Limited, Drake America Corporation, Export Credit Corporation.



and the Parade Staff Officer (Major John Drummond).
The Countess of Airlie, Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon Sir Martin Charteris, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.
The Right Hon James Callaghan, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) and First Lady Callaghan, the Right Hon Bruce Millan, MP (Secretary of State for Scotland) and Mrs Millan have arrived at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Right Hon James Callaghan, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience with The Queen this morning.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Royal Circular at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The following had the honour of being invited:

The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Revd the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh and the Lady Provost.

If the fireplace really was designed by Rubens for his house in Antwerp, it is believed to have been made by him.

The three-month-old Lord Rosebery received a letter from the Belgian Embassy asking for the exact dimensions and photo prints.

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Because of that dilemma, Lord Rosebery proposes to offer the fireplace to the British Museum and will retain ownership of it, and since it is scheduled as a prominent work of art, it is for the moment exempt from death duties.

That will give him time to see whether any evidence of its authorship can be found. So far there appears to be no documentation.

It is known that Rubens's house was owned by an antique dealer in the mid-nineteenth century who also decorated the rooms of the house where the fireplace is supposed to have stood.

If proof can be found, Lord Rosebery may try to negotiate with the British Government for its return to Antwerp.

Mentmore has been scheduled as a prominent work of art, and it is not clear whether the removal of the majestic firing is open to negotiation.

Lord Rosebery has considered installing a glass fibre replica. He

Mentmore dilemma over 'Rubens' fireplace

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A vast black marble fireplace, complete with white stone heads, sides, friezes and scrollwork, built into the great hall at Mentmore in the 1880s and traditionally believed to have been designed by Rubens for his house in Antwerp, is Lord Rosebery's latest dilemma.

When the sale of Mentmore was first announced the Rubens house in Antwerp, now a museum, was the greatest feature of the sale.

There was some ambivalence about this. There was no question that the fireplace had been designed by Rubens and that the fireplace had any connection with Rubens.

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Lord Rosebery has considered installing a glass fibre replica. He

said: "I do not want to sell the house and then find the purchaser is selling off the fireplace for £12,000. He paid me for the whole estate."

In yesterday's sale two imitation milk pails made in porcelain by the Sévres factory for Marie Antoinette's dairy at Rambouillet were sold for £50,000 and £45,000, at two lots. One had been estimated by Sotheby's at £35,000 to £12,000, the other at £10,000 to £15,000.

They were bid for by Mr John Bowes Lyon of Sotheby's. He said they had been bought by an English private collector and would not be offered again.

Haslin, Goode & Fox bought a delightful Vincennes pot-pourri vase decorated with blue and gold bands sprigs and swags of flowers at £19,000 (estimate £18,000 to £24,000).

It stands 10in high, and six examples are believed to have survived, at £5,500 (estimate £4,000 to £6,000) and a large white-clay Vincennes group, "Le Berger gallant", at £5,000 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000).

French porcelain is a narrow market controlled by a small number of specialized dealers, and since it is scheduled as a prominent work of art, it is for the moment exempt from death duties.

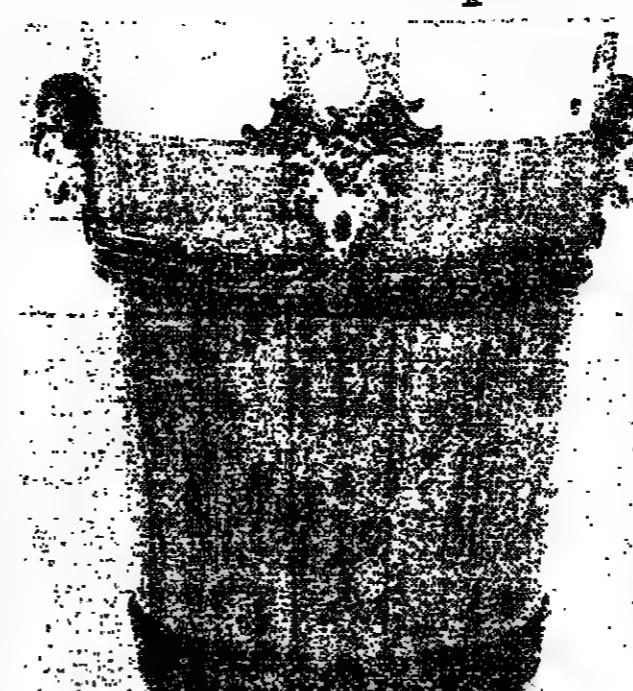
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The Sévres milk pail sold for £50,000.

ture cup and saucer were made at Sévres with chinoiserie decoration in imitation of family rose porcelain from China.

The top price was £15,000 for a Meissen dinner and dessert service including 174 pieces and dating from about 1840 (estimate £5,000 to £25,000).

Among the majolica a large Castelli dish painted with the Triumph of Scipio and dating from the late seventeenth century made £4,000 (estimate £500 to £2,000).

The day's sale brought in £1,500 with the lot of 100 items. That brings the total realized by Mentmore sales so far to £55,352.

Pair of Indian carved ivory tusks sold for £2,500

By Helen Maclellan

The highest price in a sale of Japanese ivory carvings netted £1,000 for a pair of small rectangular ivory cabinets decorated in the Shibaiana style with birds, butterflies and flowers (estimate £450 to £500). The sale made a total of £76,311, of which about 2,000 items were sold.

Christie's also sold miniature and objects of virtu, bringing £43,347, of which 7 per cent was paid in. Moutarde paid £1,250 for a set of eight ormolu-mounted French giltwood saloon suite of nine.

With staff and a sake bottle (estimate £300 to £400),

the highest price in a sale of Japanese ivories was £1,000 for a pair of small rectangular ivory cabinets decorated in the Shibaiana style with birds, butterflies and flowers (estimate £450 to £500). The sale made a total of £76,311, of which about 2,000 items were sold.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Strong all round gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 23. Dealings End, June 18. 5 Contango Day, June 13. Settlement Day, June 21.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Unemployment down by 7,200 and more jobs wait to be filled

By David Mott
Economics Correspondent
After weeks of being battered bad news as it tried to per-
the unions to agree to a new round of pay restraint, Government has come slightly from a drop in unemployment figures.

These new estimates show a 1,262,000 (5.5 per cent of workforce) the May season-
adjusted total for Great Britain was down 7,200 on the previous month. The unadjusted figure of 1,341,691 fell even more sharply, dropping by more than 50,000 for the United Kingdom as a whole, biggest monthly fall for years.

This may indeed mean that the first five months of unemployment have fallen, a seasonally adjusted basis, four of four.

At the same time the number vacancies waiting to be filled been continuing the slow steady rise that began some late last year.

If these figures were to be taken on their own they might suggest that the British economy has started the year's climb back toward full employment.

Whitehall economists, who now wary of false dawns, like that this almost certainly not so. An examination of how the economy is seen increasing steadily at the time the percentage unemployment rate has been steady at around 5.5 per cent for nearly a year.

Within the total unemployment figure more than a million people have been without work for more than four weeks. But this figure of hard-core unemployment should be set against the fact that about 350,000 people go on the register each month, many of them for a few weeks, and about the same number leave having found jobs.

For those who remain unemployed the various government job protection schemes have assumed increasingly important.

A total of 317,000 people are assisted by the schemes at the moment, most of them by the Temporary Employment Subsidy. It is estimated that some 750,000 will have been covered from the introduction of the scheme to its expected wind-up in 1978.

RTZ is the principal share-

holder, page 22

Signal for end to dividend and profit margins restraint sends share prices racing ahead
Stock market has best day for five months

By David Mott
News of an end to dividend and profit margins restraint, albeit not for another year, gave the London stock market its best day for more than five months yesterday.

The FT Ordinary Share Index, already firm in pre-lunch trading on talk of an economic statement, made an immediate response to the news, and by the close was 15.7 ahead at 472.2, back to within six points of the four-year high achieved last week.

The gilt-edged market was much less certain in its reaction and gave up earlier gains of three-eighths to close

equity dealers were rather surprised by the news, but there was no equanimity in the subsequent buying which spread over the whole range of the industrial market, with particular emphasis on companies with actual or

supposed room to manoeuvre on dividends.

Typical were shares like Beecham, Unilever, Associated Dairies, Hawker Siddeley, Shell and W. H. Smith, all of which gained more than 20p over the session. Though such issues were favoured other leading and medium-range companies were not neglected and also scored double-figure rises.

Dealers regard this latest development as something of a "bonus" and most were saying yesterday that any lingering doubts about the market's ability to go to 500 and beyond can now be forgotten.

The news was just what was needed to prompt a return by the institutions and most market men expect their continued interest for several days to come.

According to Datastream, share values rose by £1,848m yesterday to a total

market capitalization of £55,557m.

The recent switch from gilts is reflected in official figures for the last account, which was the best for equities for two years.

The value of deals when compared with the previous period was up by almost £100m to £1,121m. Total dealings, including gilts, were £5,700m, against £4,600m.

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According to Datastream, share values

US agency loses appeal in suit over soya beans

Chicago, May 24.—The United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission has lost another round in its battle over soya bean futures trading with heirs of Mr H. L. Hunt, the Texas oil billionaire.

Eight judges of the full seventh circuit United States Appeals Court on Monday unanimously denied a Commission request for a rehearing into how many soybeans Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt, Mr W. Herbert Hunt and five other family members may accept against futures contracts that expired this month.

The Commission sought to retain a total of 10 million bushels of the commodity. Eight judges of the full seventh circuit United States Appeals Court on Monday unanimously denied a Commission request for a rehearing into how many soybeans Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt, Mr W. Herbert Hunt and five other family members may accept against futures contracts that expired this month.

Financial Editor, page 23

RTZ seeks further financing for Namibia uranium mine as costs soar by £20m

By Desmond Quigley

Capital costs of the controversial Rossing uranium mine in Namibia will be well over £20m above the original estimate because of problems encountered in commissioning the mine, Sir Mark Turner, chairman of Rio Tinto-Zinc, told the company's annual meeting in London yesterday.

The original £160m cost of the mine will have increased by £20m by the end of next month, and Sir Mark commented: "It is difficult, at this stage to be precise about the amount of money which will be needed to bring Rossing up to its original design capacity."

The £20m has been funded by advances from RTZ, which has a 45 per cent equity stake in the mine. But further finance will be needed through to the final commissioning date, expected to be by the end of June next year.

Sir Mark commented: "The additional capital required to achieve this will, of course, depend on the speed at which production can be increased. Discussions with shareholders are being initiated to see how best the money necessary can be provided."

RTZ is the principal share-



Mr Shapua Kaukungus of the South West Africa People's Organization, with Mr Alex Lyon yesterday.

holder would have to provide RTZ at Rossing were due to design weaknesses in the machinery as well as the highly abrasive nature of the Rossing ore, with the result that maintenance costs had been extremely heavy and plant component replacement had been abnormally frequent, Sir Mark said.

Most of the 90-minute question time at the annual meeting was devoted to questions and lengthy statements on the future availability of uranium.

The problems encountered by

Before the annual meeting Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and former Minister of State at the Home Office, announced at a press conference the formation of the Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contract (CANUC), which is aimed to force the Government to halt the British Nuclear Fuels contract with Rossing. The campaign is backed by the Anti-apartheid Movement and other groups.

Mr Lyon alleged that when the Cabinet reconsidered the Rossing contract in 1974 after Labour had been returned to power it had been misled on the availability of alternative sources of uranium supply and on the attitude of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) to the Rossing mine.

He further claimed that the Government had "a gentleman's agreement" with RTZ to allow it to have a monopoly supply of uranium to Britain.

Mr George Saville, a national executive member of the truck drivers union ASLEF, said he would recommend to the national executive next week that the movement of all Namibian uranium in Britain should be blocked.

It was the worst day for the pound for several months. Selling was widespread, although dealers suggested that some off-loading of pounds by multinational companies was an important factor.

The pound's decline was held by the Bank's intervention to less than one cent against the dollar, and to 50 pence on the effective trade-weighted index.

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Steering group calls for more investment and improved management

£11.3m rescue plan for footwear

By Patricia Tisdall

Government backing totalling £11.3m is recommended in the rescue plan for the British footwear industry proposed by the tripartite Footwear Study Steering Group yesterday.

The plan in the 52-point plan would be allocated mainly to improving management and design efficiency in manufacturing and be matched by equal investment by the industry.

The steering group, which stresses the importance of improved exports to the industry, asks for government help in getting overseas trade barriers removed as well as in dealing with unfair imports. It says that British manufacturers should double their export levels from a present level of 18 million pairs valued at £57m (representing about 15 per cent of turnover).

Footwear makers have suffered from what they say has been the worst recession since the 1930s during the two years in which the report has been compiled. Annual sales have dropped by 27 per cent since 1969, and employment levels have fallen by about 36,000 to a present direct labour force of about 74,000.

group is anxious to see its rescue proposals implemented quickly. Steps have already been taken to set up a footwear industry Economic Development Committee which would monitor the implementation.

Significantly, in view of the earlier friction which has existed between the two sides of the industry, it is proposed that this should include footwear distributors as well as manufacturers.

Set up by the Department of Industry in January 1975, the steering group includes representatives from manufacturers and unions, Government officials and four MPs.

Footwear makers have suffered from what they say has been the worst recession since the 1930s during the two years in which the report has been compiled. Annual sales have dropped by 27 per cent since 1969, and employment levels have fallen by about 36,000 to a present direct labour force of about 74,000.

Of these, it is estimated that 7,600 are being supported by temporary employment subsidies. The steering group calculates that over an 18-month period these subsidies would total a similar sum as that which is required for its rescue plan.

Of the total aid required, approximately £1m would be put up as risk capital to encourage the entry of new entrepreneurial manufacturing companies. A further £3m would be used in capital participation in footwear export marketing companies, probably through the National Enterprise Board.

An unusual proposal adopted unanimously by the steering group from the Economists' Advisory Group report, was for state assistance to inject new managerial talent into the industry. The recommendation is that the Government should pay up to half the salary of up to 35 senior executives recruited from other fields.

Another imaginative proposal

is intended to improve the design of British footwear which the report says is "unattractive and lacking in flair". This is for the use of public funds to help freelance foot wear designers either working independently or in association with each other.

Apart from general revitalization the report also looks for Government support in the conduct of an "integrated review" of manufacturers' operations. It recommends the setting up of a scheme whereby shoe manufacturers could carry out a total audit of their operations. This should pay particular attention to management structure, marketing and design functions, factory organization, production methods as well as financial control and management accounting procedures. The audit would be carried out by consultants, and would include recommendations for changes felt to be desirable to improve overall performance.

Until July last year the corporation's borrowing ceiling was set at £2,000m, but in view of the sharp increase in the cost of financing the 10-year development strategy and the inability of the corporation to finance as large a proportion of the programme as it had originally foreseen, the Government introduced legislation in the form of the Iron and Steel Amendment Act, lifting the ceiling to a maximum of £4,000m.

Initially the new limit was set at £3,000m, but the legislation provided for the total to be raised to the maximum.

Estimates of the BSC's finance requirements made in its own financial statement at the time of the Budget revealed that the corporation would require £350m in the current year—about the same as last year.

If we are considering as an example a Ferranti Argus 700 computer which does rely on imported high technology integrated circuits where these constitute between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the total value of the computer itself, then clearly the rest of the quoted price is attributable to work and components from United Kingdom sources. Therefore, in this case the United Kingdom added value is between 80 per cent and 90 per cent thus providing a substantial contribution to the gross value of the computer.

Even more important, much of the increase in the American deficit has been caused by a surge in imports of oil from the nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, so that while the Americans have been shouldering a growing share of the West's deficit with the oil producers, it has also been increasing the scale of that problem.

The meeting is also expected to look at the experience of both the United Kingdom and Italy, whose performance has been improving on the payments front, but at the cost of severe restraint on their economies in recent months.

OECD experts study impact of oil deficits

By David Blake

Economics Correspondent

Top monetary officials from the West's industrial nations will meet in Paris today for detailed study of how the West has coped with the huge problem to its balance of payments caused by the 1973 increase in oil prices.

As the experts meet in the forum of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Working Party on the economy, the dollar, and among them is likely to be the exchange rate坐ations have barely kept pace with inflation in the past few years, and that most of the strain of adjustment has gone on to the traditional policies of demand management.

Many of the experts, who come from 24 leading nations, seem to feel that success in getting rid of the payments deficit which occurred everywhere in 1974 has depended on the level of economic activity of individual countries. Those countries which have clamped down on their own economies have either moved into balance or are running large surpluses; those who tried to maintain full employment have failed to record great improvement.

Whether the study will lead to a decision to end the import quota strongly opposed by the European Community—remains to be seen. But one source predicted that it would take some "pretty strong advice" to dissuade the Carter Administration from taking such action.

Peter Hill writes: Calls for member governments of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to approach talks on the problems of the international steel industry with positive attitudes and a commitment to identifying and seeking solutions to steel problems have been made by the American Iron and Steel Institute.

Mr Frederick C. Langenberg, president of the institute, said yesterday that there was a need for a "coordinated international government forum to deal with steel trade issues."

They said the steel industry feared the recent Japanese-United States agreement limiting sales of Japanese colour television sets on the American market might induce the United States Administration to seek similar curbs on steel imports.

Japanese fears: Japanese steelmakers intend to ask the Government to seek talks with the United States on steel exports to that country, industry sources said yesterday in Tokyo.

They said the steel industry feared the recent Japanese-United States agreement limiting sales of Japanese colour television sets on the American market might induce the United States Administration to seek similar curbs on steel imports.

Japan's steel sales to the United States rose 31 per cent last year.

Licence pledge: Herr Wilhelm Meierhofer, European foreign affairs commissioner, said yesterday that Japan had given him a "binding promise" that limits on its steel exports to the EEC would be observed.

UK shipping industry attacks proposed state aid to attract £130m Polish orders

By Michael Bailey

Shipping Correspondent

British shipowners are watching with deep suspicion the Government's backing to build 22 ships worth £130m for Poland. They fear that the undoubtedly help it would bring to Britain's starving shipyards could be at the expense of the far larger and more economically important shipping industry.

Representations have been made to the Government by the General Council for the British Shipping. Spokesmen for the council said yesterday that they did not know details of the scheme but assumed that by joint British Shipbuilders/Polish ownership or some other means Poland would be getting the ships cheap, thus increasing their already fierce competitiveness with British shipping and adding to the world ship surplus.

"On the face of it, the terms seem more attractive than those available to home buyers," the council's latest annual report says today. "This cannot be intended and cer-

tainly should not be allowed." Shipowners made strenuous efforts during the shipbuilding rationalization debate to stop the state shipbuilding industry encroaching into shipowning and management. Proposed ownership of the 22 ships by British Shipbuilders and the Poles, for charter to Poland's national line, seems even worse.

Poland is already regarded as a thorn in the flesh of British lines through cut-price competition along with the Russians in the East African and other trades.

Lord Inchcape, the council's president, yesterday gave strong warnings on both shipbuilding subsidies and Eastern block competition, calling for a cut of 30 to 50 per cent in world shipbuilding capacity. "There are too many yards chasing too few orders, and no amount of well-intentioned subsidies by governments around the world will alter that fact," he said.

Eastern block competition on world liner trades had been getting steadily worse in the past year, the council says, and the only hopeful sign was that

Lord Inchape: too many yards chasing too few orders.

Western, and particularly European Community, governments were at last facing up to the threat and taking powers to combat it.

France, Holland, and Germany had already taken powers similar to Britain's to retaliate by banning or taxing cut-price Russian ships, and Japan was doing so now.

New approach to company deferred tax put forward

By Christopher Wilkins

New proposals for the treatment of deferred tax in companies' accounts, which are likely to have far-reaching effects on corporate balance sheets, have been put forward by the accountancy profession.

The proposals take the form of an exposure draft (ED19) from the Accounting Standards Steering Committee, which represents the principal accountancy bodies in Britain and is responsible for drafting new accounting standards.

The draft is intended to lead to a replacement for a previous standard on deferred tax, SSAP11, which was introduced in August 1975 but has since run into some difficulties.

The key feature of the new draft is that in future companies should only account for deferred tax when there is a clear timing difference between the arising of a tax liability and the actual payment of it. The vital change from SSAP11 is

that companies should no longer provide for deferred tax when it can be positively demonstrated that there is no probability of the tax becoming payable in the foreseeable future.

This change has been at the heart of the discussion with SSAP11, which required that the profit and loss account should show tax at full United Kingdom and overseas rates before any allowances either for capital spending or for relief on stock appreciation.

Because of the rapid rate of inflation stock appreciation, in particular, has become an increasingly important factor in many companies' profits. Although, strictly speaking, stock relief is not necessarily as welcome as tax, the Chancellor has said that companies will not actually be expected to pay it.

As a result, the deferred tax item in companies' accounts has come to assume less and less relevance to their real tax liabilities.

Financial Editor, page 23

UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain released by the Department of Employment yesterday:

	Total	Seasonally adjusted	Adult unadjusted
	000s	000s	000s
1976			
April	1,221	1,163	521
May	1,220	1,234	522
June	1,273	1,210	531
July	1,402	1,297	541
Aug	1,440	1,256	551
Sept	1,385	1,256	512
Oct	1,221	1,256	551
Nov	1,3161	1,273	551
Dec	1,3161	1,273	551
1977			
Jan	1,390	1,205	551
Feb	1,362	1,278	551
March	1,328	1,285	551
April	1,338	1,285	551
May	1,285	1,252	551

Extracts from the Presidential address by Francis Perkins, DSC, President, The Corporation of Insurance Brokers

The insurance broking industry has always been proud of its independence and until recently we were in the happy position that we could get on with our business without having to pay attention to Government attitudes or to learn the new techniques of a continuing dialogue with Whitehall. This has changed because the public attitude to insurance has changed.

• The House of Lords is now considering a Bill which, if it becomes law, will carry us towards the professionalism which the Corporation has been seeking for the greater part of the 20th Century, maybe not precisely as our predecessors may have envisaged, but nevertheless I believe the legislative arena which we have developed together with these objectives for which the Corporation came into existence and on which our applications for the Royal Charter were based.

• In the EEC we now have a British President but as yet we have had no timing from Government on the holding of direct elections to European Parliament. In my view and in the view of many others who take part in the European scene it would be a shameful thing if we were the one country that fails in this way to comply with European democracy. I think there are those in this country who fail to realize how seriously the EEC is considered as an essential entity by the world outside this country.

• My objective during the last five years has been to bring the representative bodies together both within the EEC and within this country, to make plans for the future base of the industry by regulations providing for the first time adequate powers of sanction thus to ensure that our industry commands the respect which I believe the huge majority of those who strive in it both today and in the future have earned and to which they are entitled.

CB

The Corporation of Insurance Brokers,
15 St Helen's Place, London EC3A 6DS. ex-584387

Bill will raise BSC's borrowing to £4,000m

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The Government plans to raise the borrowing limit of the British Steel Corporation to £4,000m later this year. Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, will seek parliamentary approval for the increase before the summer recess.

Apart from general revitalization the report also looks for Government support in the conduct of an "integrated review" of manufacturers' operations. It recommends the setting up of a scheme whereby shoe manufacturers could carry out a total audit of their operations. This should pay particular attention to management structure, marketing and design functions, factory organization, production methods as well as financial control and management accounting procedures. The audit would be carried out by consultants, and would include recommendations for changes felt to be desirable to improve overall performance.

This move was foreshadowed some weeks ago and reflects the spiralling costs of the BSC's development programme, which has been the subject of considerable delay since it was first approved five years ago.

Mr Varley's plan to raise the ceiling to the maximum will almost certainly come under fire from the Opposition since it was only a year ago that ministers indicated that the new limit was felt to be sufficient for the next three years.

Until July last year the corporation's borrowing ceiling was set at £2,000m, but in view of the cost of financing the 10-year development strategy and the inability of the corporation to finance as large a proportion of the programme as it had originally foreseen, the Government introduced legislation in the form of the Iron and Steel Amendment Act, lifting the ceiling to a maximum of £4,000m.

Initially the new limit was set at £3,000m, but the legislation provided for the total to be raised to the maximum.

Estimates of the BSC's finance requirements made in its own financial statement at the time of the Budget revealed that the corporation would require £350m in the current year—about the same as last year.

If we are considering as an example a Ferranti Argus 700 computer which does rely on imported high technology integrated circuits where these constitute between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the total value of the computer itself, then clearly the rest of the quoted price is attributable to work and components from United Kingdom sources. Therefore, in this case the United Kingdom added value is between 80 per cent and 90 per cent thus providing a substantial contribution to the gross value of the computer.

To some extent the United States action has helped other OECD nations in a weaker position, but it has also reinforced the surpluses of countries like Japan.

Even more important, much of the increase in the American deficit has been caused by a surge in imports of oil from the nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, so that while the Americans have been shouldering a growing share of the West's deficit with the oil producers, it has also been increasing the scale of that problem.

The meeting is also expected to look at the experience of both the United Kingdom and Italy, whose performance has been improving on the payments front, but at the cost of severe restraint on their economies in recent months.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The spin-off benefits from the added value of UK goods and services

From Mr Guyton Roberts, MP for Cannock (Labour)

Sir, "Buy British" is a familiar cry and even in a period of improving balance of payments it is highly desirable to trim the import bill. Government departments should in theory give preference to goods and services provided by British firms. Unfortunately there is considerable evidence that public sector contracts are frequently offered to foreign companies and equivalently priced British alternatives.

There are strong arguments against import controls, and one alternative which I am suggesting to ministers in a series of House of Commons questions is that of asking the Treasury to quote the United Kingdom added value of the goods and services they are offering. This is a measure of the part of the price arising from work or components emanating from United Kingdom sources. It is clear that United Kingdom added value provides direct benefit to the Treasury and thus the nation as a whole, as well as providing jobs in the United Kingdom.

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Indeed, it was for this very reason that the concept of added value was devised in

he added
vices

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Taking off the dividend shackles

would have increased the yield by more had we been forced to do so." Well, the city of Kuwait has done just that—scarcely a month after yesterday's announcement which the Government made yesterday in the House of Commons, on a one-year time scale, on price, wage and cost controls, easier, as far as the market assumed it

was, of course, a wide range of companies quite capable of providing a better return to their shareholders over the figures of inflation or the demands for capital and asset revaluation in what should, by mid-1978, be a growth year. Ninety British companies—according to data from International last paid dividends which were more than four times; in the case of 50 of those over were five times and

of them—Shell, Unilever, bound by equalisation agreements to pay more; such as Beecham, have their shareholders in no doubt they will. But there likewise, a number of companies which are in no position to pay more, and some which paid too much already. Builders' Merchants and its being cases in point, many of companies are now reduced profitability and it's a fair assumption the majority will not to increase their dividends over the 10 per cent in which they do it will pay shareholders with a one-off it's a higher base from which to look for moderate growth thereafter.

As this, then, mean that, roughly in the market return—the FT Index up by 15.7 per cent to 472.2, companies such as Shell, and Beecham added 5 per cent to their capital, while Asia added over 10 per cent? Almost certainly not. Prices relate, not to the ends which companies are g., but to investors' expectations of what they will pay in and a form of dividend of which had become all instrumentalised and divided value to such an extent the correction will inevitably violent.

A abolition of dividend constraints would diminish the money which will the firms have to offer, if not exceptional increase in the end—but it will make for a more efficient secondary market. And for a healthy market that is in the long essential precondition.

s Wharf

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Wharf has been led up the side abandoned twice—arts Corp to cold feet in 1974, and has now been pulled Ocean Transport which stuck off valuing the trading operation without allowance of Hay's view potential property development. Shareholders drawn into the by Hay's position as a bid may be beginning to feel they will never see an which looks through to potential worth of Hay's Thameside site. But, ring as October's departure, are at least a few rays of light peaking in the clouds.

One thing, the entrant of the Kuwait Investment Office's 34.5 per cent holding gives it a significantly more valuable asset. It be assumed that the last the KIO wants is a major investment site in Central London with all its attendant

political and financial aggravations. And in any case a storage and distribution group, KIO's investment portfolio, So no Kuwaiti bid, but a Kuwaiti

The KIO's stake could be placed with friendly institutions around the market. But it would be won substantially as a spring board for a takeover. The KIO's friendly relationship with the Board suggests that the next bid would be agreed before it was launched. And, as the Board's board would not agree to raise terms which ignored share development potential, we are back at square one, with a bidable target that is able to hold our for a price reflecting its property worth.

Just what that value would be is impossible to say. But net assets of £16.1m a share include 20 acres of development land next to London Bridge held in the books at an historical cost of £2.6m and September 1976 valuations for £7m of diverse properties which exclude any element of development worth.

Mr Peter Shire's valuation of £1.5m London Office Development controls have not yet

been fully implemented, but

Wheatshae

Adjusting for ED19

Percentage increase in

per share

RHP

Sluggish demand

A 4% rise in Ransome Hoffmann Pollard's share price

Gip yesterday was a measure

of the market's general enthusiasm, rather than a

reaction to the firm's RHP

interim profits of £2.6m were

disappointing. Although 31

months earlier than the correspond-

ing time, this came from a more

expressed, half-yearly, hit

both by a major strike and

short-time working, while

stripping out the 1975 acquisi-

tion, MTE's earnings are well

down on best levels and the

trend remains flat.

Of course some deferred tax will remain, but for most companies the vast bulk is accounted for by stock relief and capital allowances and, as from the end of this year, these amounts will go straight through to earnings.

The effect on some blue

chip is detailed above. Sainsbury and Ocean Transport particularly stand out—but for the market as a whole the implication is that the present average P/E ratio of 9.3 (excluding financials) would drop to more like 7. Whether such calculations are meaningful in the context of the continuing devaluation that would occur in the current cost accounting is another matter, however.

The implications for published earnings and assets of Exposure Draft 19 on deferred tax will be profound. Some companies

Marley, Brooke Bond and P&O are examples already effectively account on this basis, but most do not. According to stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, who have looked at the impact on 120 leading companies, average asset values in the latest published accounts would have been 17 per cent higher and earnings a third higher if all deferred tax were eliminated.

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Wheatshae

Hypermarket possibilities

If further confirmation was needed that soaring food price inflation has also helped drive up margins, it was supplied yesterday by Wheatshae Directors. Trading. The final outcome of a £1.2m pre-tax profit was more than the market bargained for, and re-

turns

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)

Capitalisation £15.5m

Sales £34.9m (£27.5m)

Pre-tax profits £6.2m (£3.9m)

Earnings per share 21.8p (£13.1p)

Dividend gross 8.55p (£7.77p)

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Best day for more than five months

Shares had their best day since mid-December under the impetus of the news that dividend and price restraint will end next year.

This was just the sort of incentive to bring the institutions back to the market after the hiatus of the previous three days. The response was immediate and the FT Index closed no less than 15.7 up at 472.2, back to within six points of its four-year peak, achieved last week.

Prices were already firm in the pre-lunch session as the word got around that some sort

Clayton Dewandre hardly shared in the festivities, rising just 1p to 88p. Last year's profits disappointingly fell from a record £2.8m to £2.57m. But this year could be different. Some even hope for as much as £4.3m this year, if the group stays free from short-time working and labour problems. On a 10 per cent dividend increase, the yield rises to nearly 12 per cent. For the moment, the success keeps the shares in check. In 10 hours, profits have risen from £1m.

of economic statement was imminent. The contents took dealers rather by surprise but immediately spurred indiscriminate buying throughout the whole range of leading industrial shares.

Companies with well-covered dividends were particularly favoured and in many cases closed with double-figure gains. Though the ending of dividend and margins curbs has long been sought by the market—and as such is very welcome—some sceptics were pointing to the fact that profits still have to be earned under existing conditions for another 12 months.

Gilts responded less certainly to the news. Longer dates opened easier on United States influences and quickly lost up to one-quarter. Buyers then came in to take prices three-eighths above their overnight levels, but by the close most stocks had reverted to unchanged as the economic news

was absorbed. "Shorts" were narrowly mixed.

Though there was a strong general demand for the "blue chips", those most favoured were Unilever, which has cash in its dividend account and gained 26p to 494p, and Beecham, where the payment is also well covered, which rose 24p to 488p.

Ahead of figures, ICI rose

12p to 404p, but Courtaulds,

also with a statement this week,

continued to be left out in the cold, firming just a penny to 127p.

Others to benefit from divi-

divend considerations were

Hawker Siddeley 25p to 625p,

Associated Dairies which shot

up 2p to 284p and in papers

W. H. Smith "A", where the

rise was 33p, for a close of

75p.

Issues to lose ground after

bid talk had broken down were

Hay's Wharf which gave up 25p

to 145p, electrical group

Laurence Scott which was

lowered 21p to 165p and Storey

Brothers which dipped to 81p

late in the day and closed 13p

lower on balance at 91p. Lamro

lost 2p to 73p after the loss of

the Sudan sugar contract.

In engineers, renewed take-

over hopes spurred John Brown

Latest dividends

Company	Ord (and par value)	Year div	Pay date	Year's total div	Prev. year
English Nat Inv (25p) Fin	0.95	0.34		1.69	1.5
Fairdale Textiles (5p) Fin	0.74	0.64	1/7	1.04	0.94
Fine Art Dev. (5p) Fin	0.65	0.65		1.2	1.1
Muirhead (25p) Int	0.7	0.5	15/7	3.31	3.31
Oultonwick Inv (25p) Fin	1.9	1.37	25/6	2.33	1.92
Rossmore Hoffmann (25p) Int	1.44	1.31	20/7	3.44	3.44
S. Samuel (25p) S Int	6.1	4.3	11/7	7.5	5.3
St. George Assets Fin	0.29	—	20/7	0.43	0.39
Scott & Robertson (25p) Fin	0.91	—		1.83	1.68
Scottish Heritable (25p) Fin	0.63	0.57		1.21	1.1
Scots Nat Inv (25p) Int	1.25	1.1	18/6	3.05	3.05
Francis Summer (10p) Fin	0.27	0.35		0.77	0.70
Swan Hunter (21) S Int	3.5	2.91	25/7	—	5.91
Thaxter Inv (50p) Int	0.8	0.7		—	2.4
Transparent Ppr (25p) Fin	2.76	2.76	5/8	4.42	4.02
Uniflex Blends (10p) Fin	2.75	2.5		2.75	2.5
Wheatshaf Dis (35p) Fin	3.05	3.05		5.5	5.05

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on per share.

Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis.

To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

Now that the talks with Hay's Wharf have broken down shaping factors remain speculative about Ocean Transport's next port of call. Many would prefer Furness. With a minority holding the European stake, but they see such a move as a long-term prospect, Ocean shares rose 6p to 179p after the Hay's news:

In electricals, the strongest

performances came from Thorn "A", better by 18p to 300p, EMI which closed 11p firmer at 238p. But figures did little for Muirhead which were 2p lower on balance at 297p.

But Swan Hunter responded to figures with a rise of 5p to 110p and a recovery from H. Samuel was good for a 2p rise at 145p in the "A" shares.

The issue, which is underwritten, comes on the back of higher profits for the year to March 31. While sales increased 25 per cent to £33.4m, pre-tax profits were 31 per cent higher at 14.5p.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Margins lower but I Samuel has another fine year

Tony May
The first-half setback at Samuel, the jewellers and ceramics, was shaken off in last half so the group ends year to January 1 with its record result. Turnover, including VAT, rose 13 per cent to £51.2m and pretax profits, per cent, rose 10 per cent to a dip in margins from 5 per cent to 1.7 per cent. Net profit £99,000, against £800 of extraordinary items. Share price are 22.15p, up 19.52p. The dividend is Birmingham-based group raised from 8.16p to 11.55p, and is covered 2.95 times, up 3.68 times last year. The is in accordance with the company's provisions counter-inflation legislation.

The group's expansion continues with new branches being opened and existing units being extended. The board reports a encouraging start to the year.

The group's shares went up to 145p yesterday, giving a of 7.96 per cent.

be first half of the past

One-for-6 rights from buoyant Bemrose

Ray Maughan printing, packaging and publishing group, Bemrose Corporation, is throwing a one-for-six issue of 18p a share to the £750,000. The new funds be raised by a 20 per cent to the overnight market price of 60p.

Capital spending reached over in 1976 on re-equipment modernisation and the board, headed by Sir Max Bemrose, intends to continue programme and to "increase the rates of investment those businesses where the prospects of profitable market with and export potential justify further expansion".

Chief executive, Mr David Giesler, explained after annual meeting yesterday that Bemrose has always looked high-value products which are low fixed asset expenditure. The success of this search, believed to be behind the up's ability to turn up a pound annual rate of 19 per cent since 1970 despite the fluctuations of the print and pack-

aging cycle and Bemrose's problems on costs from the head office in 1973.

But, if the second half of 1976 showed some shortfall in that pattern, the signs this year point to pronounced acceleration. No divisional breakdown is given. But it seems that both printing and the flexible packaging divisions are currently maintaining last year's progress. Yet the potential for recovery elsewhere may act as a greater profits filler. The gravure printing division was hurt by a major demand drop in the autumn of 1976 but there are now early signs that orders for printed polyester fabric, on which gravure transfer printing depends, are improving. The Carton division, in the red last year, has a stronger workload than at any time during the last 16 months.

The board forecasts a 40 per cent rise in the total gross dividend for 1977 at 5.8p per share, where the yield, at 64p by the close yesterday, is just over 12 per cent.



Sir John Hunter, chairman of Swan Hunter.

Swan Hunter extends to meet change

Swan Hunter, the largest shipbuilder to be taken into the nationalization, now, has extended its current accounting period by six months to cover the period from January 1, 1976, to end-June next.

The extension is intended to present accounts which will show the effects of the part change of ownership.

The balance sheet will reveal the strength of the subsidiaries which will remain in shareholders' hands, on which the future development of Swan Hunter will be based, and the net book value of the subsidiaries for which compensation will be received from British Shipbuilders after they have vested on July 1, 1977.

Profit will include the earnings of the nationalization candidates, together with dividends due from those parts which will be taken over, and whose loss of earnings in the period after July 1 next will be exchanged initially by income from the compensation stock.

Mr Anthony Wilson, a senior partner in the accountancy firm of Price Waterhouse, has been appointed to act as a stockholders' representative as defined in the Aircraft & Shipbuilding Industries Act, 1977, for the compensation negotiations.

These are expected to begin shortly after vesting day to determine the value of the vesting subsidiaries.

In view of the extension, a second interim dividend of 5.385p gross is declared.

International**ig drop in 1st qtr for YSE firms**

New York, May 24.—The New Stock Exchange estimates first-quarter net profit of member firms doing business with the public listed by 4 per cent to 7m from \$215.1m a year earlier.

The 1977 period was marked flagging volume in most of the securities business. Some 263 firms of the 375 rated at a profit in the ended quarter had 122 losses.

Halsey Stuart, subsidiary of the second biggest holding house in New York, saw a drop in third quarter from \$53m (about £3m) £450,000. The nine months was \$2.8m against m.

Commenting on the third-quarter results, Mr John E. L. chairman, said that earnings were significantly affected a decline in revenue, especially from reduced royalties.

Peugeot-Citroen
SA Peugeot-Citroen, the car manufacturing group, reports net profit of 1,400m francs (about £1m) on a turnover of 10m francs. There is no comparison with 1975, as Peugeot SA and Citroen SA in the course of last year. Peugeot-Citroen said that cash flow last year amounted to 3,400m francs.

Niki's increase
Niki Motor Co.'s year-end to March 31 rose sharply 500m yen (about £7m) from 167,000m yen a year earlier. Sales rose sharply to 216,000m from 167,000m yen a year. The company forecast its profit for the year ending March 31 at 3,000m yen, up 240,000m yen.

Uniflex up 10 pc
An 11 per cent rise in second-half profits to £307,000 brings the pre-tax total for the year to £1,000,000 to £534,000, as Uniflex Holdings. This is a rise of nearly 10 per cent by this furniture group, and was achieved on turnover 5 per cent ahead at £10.3m. This points to a rise in margins from 5.7 per cent to 5.15 per cent. Earnings a share are raised from 9.24p to 10.56p, and the dividend goes up from 3.85p to 4.23p gross. The board has made a provision of £27,500 against an investment in a quoted company to write down its cost to the Stock Exchange mid-market value at March 31.

Dealings inquiry after Storey Bros bid talks end

Storey Brothers, the personal and home decor specialists, yesterday announced that discussions this might have led to a take-over bid being mounted for the company had been terminated because no agreement had been reached.

The shares fell 13p on the Stock Exchange to 91p. The Stock Exchange is currently investigating dealings in the shares of Storey after the shares rose quickly two weeks ago from 67p to 83p. Last week the shares reached 118p.

Folkestone offer

A £600,000 placing of 124 per cent debentures 1984, has been completed by Folkestone & District Water Co. at a price of par.

A debenture issue has been chosen instead of the more familiar preference issue because Folkestone may shortly find itself coming to the end of its tax relief and at that point will find a debenture more advantageous for tax reasons. The issue seems likely to open at a small premium when dealing begin on Friday. Brokers are Seymour Pierce.

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Trans Ppr's £1m

Against a background of pre-tax profits of a cool £1.52m against £444,563 for the year to April 2 Trans Ppr's Paper unit

obond prices (midday indicators)

STRATEGIC	Bd	Other	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040</

COMMODITIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Reaction to uptrend in cocoa prices

Cocoa prices opened £2 to £8 per tonne down yesterday morning. Market sources had anticipated a lower opening following a rather quiet and easier New York market.

During the call there was some short-covering resistance to the downside but buyers later backed away under local selling pressure from importers. The 50-lot limit was reached mid-morning in July and December.

There was no fresh news and dealers regarded the move as a reaction to the upturn, particularly as there was no apparent rush to cover in early May which had recently been the market leader in view of the tight market by physical supply situation.

Prices continued to fall after the early limit down move under profit taking which touched off some stoploss orders. By the end of the morning there were sales of £116 to £126 with dear May trading at £3.025 and July at £2.645.

Dealers said the market was rather thin with buyers hesitant.

At the afternoon close prices had moved further. Spot May was £114.75 down and July had lost £15.50.

COPPER was steady—Afternoon: Can 60c to 77.5c a metric tonne, 3,400 tons. Cash cathodes 50c to 50.50c. Sales: 1,400 tons.

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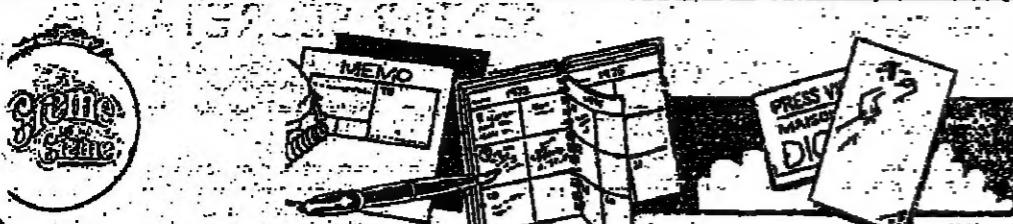
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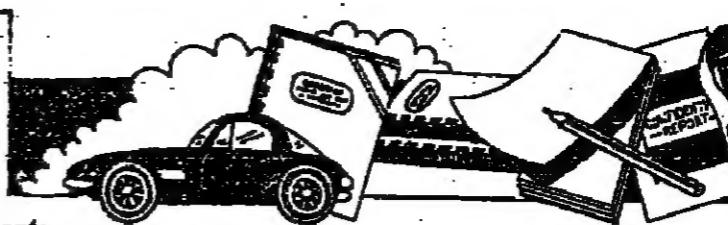
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£4,000

for Managing Director of a well known company. Lots of client contact, thus presentation, with good organisational and administrative skills.

Good English.

£3,500 basic.

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CIRCA £4,000

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for Managing Director of a well known company. Lots of client contact, thus presentation, with good organisational and administrative skills.

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"... For the question waits with
anxie longing for the revealing of
the secret of God." —Romans
10:11 (R.S.V.)

BIRTHS

SHELDON — On May 23rd, to
Linda and Peter, son Edward.

HORN — On May 23rd, Mrs. Margaret
and Anthony, son Christopher.

DAHABY — On May 23rd, at West-
minster Hospital, London, Mr. and
Mrs. Oliver, a daughter.

FISHER — On May 23rd, to
Elizabeth and Dale, a daughter,

Countess Hospital, London, Mrs.
Emily.

HAINES — On May 24th, to Emily,
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Haines.

HEARN — On May 24th, to Richard
and Arnold, son Donald.

MURKIN — On May 24th, to Enrica
and Michael, son Christopher.

HOWARD — On May 24th, to
the Westminster Hospital in London,
Mrs. and son Nicholas.

JOHNS — On May 24th, at Queen
Victoria Hospital, Sidcup, Kent,
Vivian, and Gordon, a daughter.

PEAK — On May 24th, to
Mrs. Mary and Arthur, son David.

ROBERTSON — On May 24th, to
Cuthbert and Elizabeth, son John.

WATSON — On May 24th, to
Mrs. and Mrs. Oliver, a daughter.

TIAKS — On May 23rd, 1977, to
Mrs. and Mrs. Josephine, a
daughter.

WACHTER — On May 24th, to
Mrs. and Mrs. William, son Thomas.

WATKINS — On May 24th, to
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